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Heroic heights

Rangers scale Normandy cliff in honor of one of invasion's boldest actions

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MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers of the 75th Ranger Regiment climb up the 100-foot cliffs of Pointe du Hoc on the Normandy coast, much like their counterparts did on D-Day 75 years ago. In the background at left is the Ranger Monument.

Poll: Most Americans say US right to fight in WWII; 1 out of 5 unsure

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Most Americans believe the United States was right to participate in World War II but many are either skeptical or don't know, according to a poll released ahead of the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion that kicked off the liberation of Europe.

The U.S. entry into the war, which was

prompted by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, was "completely justified" or "somewhat justified," said 66% of those polled by a YouGov online survey whose results were released Tuesday. Twenty percent said they didn't know and 14% said it was "not very" or "not at all" justified.

Still, the survey found that among those questioned, the Allied campaign in WWII

received the most support, followed by the American Revolution, which 6 out of 10 said was justified.

Conducted on May 21-22, the poll asked 1,200 U.S. citizens 18 or older about their views on war in general and specific conflicts that America fought since the country's split from the British Empire in 1776.

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D-DAY: 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Trump reads from FDR's prayer for D-Day

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE
AND KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

PORTSMOUTH, England — President Donald Trump read from a prayer delivered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as he joined other world leaders and veterans Wednesday in marking the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Roosevelt went on national radio on June 6, 1944, to address the U.S. for the first time about the Normandy invasion. Trump, with images of an American flag and Roosevelt projected behind him, read to the crowd: "Almighty God, our sons, pride of our nation, this day, have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our republic, our religion and our civilization and to set free a suffering humanity."

Trump traveled to the southern coast of England on Wednesday to pay respects to American servicemen and allies who helped rescue Europe from Nazi Germany. He sat in a VIP area between Queen Elizabeth II and the first lady during the program, which focused on a telling of events leading up to D-Day. Some 300 World War II veterans also attended the seaside ceremony.

A chilly breeze blew off the English Channel as Trump arrived for the event, the first of two he is attending to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day when the Allied soldiers, sailors and airmen conducted an operation that helped liberate Europe from Nazi Germany.

Trump joined in giving a standing ovation to a group of World War II vets who appeared on stage as the commemoration began.

After the event, Trump visited with American

World War II veterans who were among Allied troops on D-Day. He was to have lunch and meet briefly with German Chancellor Angela Merkel before departing for Ireland to meet with Prime Minister Leo Varadkar and stay at Trump's golf course in the village of Doonbeg.

During a news conference Tuesday, Trump said he is grateful for the warm welcome he received from the British royal family and prime minister as "we remember the heroes who laid down their lives to rescue civilization itself." He played down protests of his visit, describing the thousands of people who demonstrated in London as a "small protest."

Trump has used his speeches to emphasize a longstanding bond between the U.S. and Britain. He noted that more than 1.5 million Americans were stationed in England in advance of the invasion.

"The bonds of friendship forged here and sealed in blood on those hallowed beaches will endure forever," Trump said.

Also on Tuesday, Trump and first lady Melania Trump toured the Churchill War Rooms, the British government's underground command center during World War II. Then it was time for a fancy dinner that the Trumps hosted at the U.S. ambas-



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump speaks during a ceremony Wednesday in Portsmouth, England, to mark the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

sador's residence for Prince Charles, his wife, Camilla, and other dignitaries.

While at the Churchill War Rooms, he worked to clean up a diplomatic spat, telling "Good Morning Britain" host Piers Morgan that he meant no royal insult when he used the term "nasty" in discussing the American-born Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle. The phrase generated a lot of media coverage and Trump has worked diligently to explain that he was speaking specifically on her comments about him, not about her.

Trump said: "She was nasty to me. And that's OK for her to be nasty, it's not good for me to be nasty to her and I wasn't."

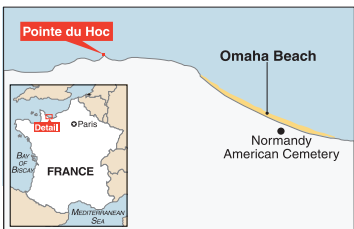
Trump said the controversy did not come up when he spoke with Markle's husband, Prince Harry, who he says "couldn't have

been nicer."

While overseas, the president's mind appeared to be on matters back at home, as he unleashed Twitter attacks on Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, former Vice President Joe Biden and even actress and singer Bette Midler. A couple of the broadsides came in about 1 a.m. local time.

Trump's visit to Ireland will be his first as president. He is spending two nights at his golf club in Doonbeg, which sits above the Atlantic.

After Dublin balked at holding a meeting in the city, a deal was struck for Trump to meet Varadkar at the VIP lounge at Shannon Airport, hardly the grand setting usually afforded a meeting of world leaders.



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D-DAY: 75TH ANNIVERSARY



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers of the 75th Ranger Regiment finish the climb up the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc on the Normandy coast Tuesday like their counterparts did on D-Day, 75 years ago.

Daring mission

Today's Rangers scale Pointe du Hoc cliff to commemorate historic operation

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

OMAHA BEACH, France — Maj. Ross Daly put on the World War II era uniform of his 75th Ranger Regiment forebears Tuesday to scale the cliff at Pointe du Hoc, where 75 years ago a small group of soldiers attempted one of the most daring missions of the war.

"For us in the 2nd Ranger Battalion, this was our baptism by fire," Daly said. "This is where our battalion's legacy was born. They gave everything that day and now it is on us."

About 100 Rangers climbed the steep limestone cliffside at Pointe du Hoc to commemorate the historic operation and the 75th Ranger Regiment's role in the D-Day landings, which took a heavy toll on the unit. Only 90 of the roughly 225 Rangers who took part were still standing after two days of fighting.

The climb up the 100-foot cliffs included using rope ladders that were too short while facing gunfire and dropped grenades on the ascent. The aim was to seize German artillery pieces that could have been used against U.S. troops at Omaha and Utah beaches.

On Tuesday, John Raean, 97, watched as the Rangers climbed up again. Raean was a company commander in the 75th's 5th Ranger Battalion, which also was part of the D-Day invasion. Instead of climbing at Pointe du Hoc, Raean landed at the "Dog White Sector" at Omaha Beach.

"There was little resistance there. The Germans, they more or less pulled out there," Raean said, sitting near the cliff's edge at Point du Hoc. "But it was a bad situation here."

Later that day, Raean made it up to Pointe du Hoc to rally with other Rangers. They faced counterattacks for the next two days while defending the position. The scene was chaotic, Raean said.

"At one point, five tanks burst over the hill and attacked us. Our own tanks. They killed about eight Rangers. Friendly fire," Raean said. "They thought they heard the sound of German gunfire."

For today's Rangers, the climb at Point du Hoc was a chance to offer thanks, with many crouching down to trade stories with Raean.

"We stand on your shoulders," regiment commander Col. Brandon R. Tegtmeier told Raean after climbing the cliff.

"They fought their way up. It's amazing what they did," said Sgt. Maj. Michael Albaush, 7th Ranger Regiment's sergeant major. "For us to be a part of it and do this climb is to commemorate the history of the Rangers."

The Rangers on Tuesday made steady ascents up the cliff using well-secured climbing ropes. They wore a mix of modern Army uniforms and others styled like those during D-Day.

"It's an extremely humbling experience. You're on the same terrain here, but without the confusion, the fright, the noise, the angst of what was upon their shoulders," Daly said. "Putting



Soldiers and visitors stand at the foot of the Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument watching a flyby of C-130 airplanes.



Soldiers of the 75th Ranger Regiment pose with D-Day veterans John Raean Jr., second from left, and Roy Huereque, to his left.

on what they wore that day, it just gives a slice of what it might have felt like."

There are about 50 D-Day vets attending ceremonies this week

at Normandy, where many thousands of people are gathered to mark the 75th anniversary of the allied landing in France. The number of veterans, all of whom

"This is where our battalion's legacy was born. They gave everything that day and now it is on us."

Maj. Ross Daly

are well into their 90s, is dwindling with each passing year. The veterans are being honored at dozens of ceremonies being held throughout the region.

On Thursday, world leaders, including President Donald Trump, will be on hand to mark the occasion at the American Cemetery at Normandy, where more than 9,000 war dead, many from the D-Day landing, are buried.

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D-DAY: 75TH ANNIVERSARY

US, UK vets re-create D-Day parachute drops

By JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press

CARENTAN, France — Parachutists are jumping over Normandy again, just as soldiers did 75 years ago for D-Day — but this time without being shot at.

With the throb of their engines rumbling through cloudy skies, C-47 transport planes in World War II colors dropped jumpers with round canopies reminiscent of those used by airborne forces in 1944.

Their landing zone for Wednesday's operation was fields of wildflowers outside Carentan, one of the objectives of the thousands dropped over Normandy as a prelude to the seaborne invasions on June 6, 1944.

Thousands watched as the jumpers softly floated through the bright skies. Many spectators were wearing WWII era uniforms, and music of the time played over loudspeakers, giving the display a 1940s air.

Among the jumpers Wednesday was D-Day veteran Tom Rice, 97, of San Diego. He jumped into Normandy with thousands of other parachutists in 1944, and recalls it as "the worst jump I ever had."

"I got my left armpit caught in the lower left hand corner of the door so I swung out, came back and hit the side of the aircraft, swung out again and came back, and I just

'All the GIs suffer from the same blame and shame ... coming back here is a matter of closure.'

Tom Rice, 97
D-Day veteran

tried to straighten my arm out and I got free," he told The Associated Press in an interview.

Rice was jumping in tandem with another parachutist. He has been preparing for the last six months for his jump, working with a physical trainer.

Like many other veterans, Rice said he remains troubled by the war.

"All the GIs suffer from the same blame and shame. It bothers us all the time for what we did. We did a lot of destruction, damage. And we chased the Germans out, and coming back here is a matter of closure. You can close the issue now," he said.

Other jumps were planned later Wednesday involving British veterans at Sanverville as part of events marking the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.



Above: Spectators watch parachutists jumping just as soldiers did 75 years ago for D-Day on Wednesday in Carentan, Normandy. Left: U.S. World War II D-Day veteran Tom Rice, front second left, is guided after parachuting in a tandem jump.

PHOTOS BY
RAFAEL YAGHOUBZADEH/AP

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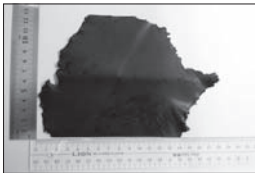
Rubber piece from Marine helo falls on schoolyard

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Marine Corps officials said a half-ounce piece of rubber that fell onto a busy Okinawa middle school tennis court Tuesday came off a Marine CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter.

Children were practicing on the court at Uranishi Middle School in Urasoe City when the 6-by-8-inch black rubber object landed there around 3:35 p.m., according to a spokesman for the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which is a branch of the Japan Ministry of Defense. No injuries or damage were reported.

Witnesses reported seeing a helicopter flying overhead at the time the piece fell, the spokesman said. The piece was delivered first to the bureau and then to the Marine Corps for closer inspection.



Courtesy of Okinawa Defense Bureau

A small piece of rubber from a Marine helicopter landed on an Okinawa middle school tennis court Tuesday.

The school is about 2½ miles southwest of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan.

"After investigating, 1st Marine Aircraft

Wing concluded that the small piece of black rubber is blade tape," III Marine Expeditionary Force spokesman 1st Lt. Jose Uriarte wrote in an emailed statement to Stars and Stripes on Wednesday afternoon.

Blade tape is used to protect the forward edge of helicopter blades, he said.

"Blade tape poses no threat to people or property; however, we remain committed to safe flight operations and to not causing anxiety within the community," Uriarte wrote. "1st Marine Aircraft Wing is inspecting all aircraft that have blade tape and will remove or replace any blade tape that is found to be degraded."

In addition to Super Stallions, blade tape is also used on the MV-22B Osprey, AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom, he said.

Uranishi Middle School officials declined to comment Wednesday.

A spokesman for Okinawa prefecture

also declined comment, except to say, "We will protest to the U.S. officially if it's confirmed to be theirs."

It's not the first time on Okinawa that an aircraft shed a part onto a facility for children.

In December 2017, a plastic piece thought to belong to a U.S. military helicopter was found on the roof of an Okinawa day care facility.

Later that month, a 3-foot-by-3-foot window fell from a Marine CH-53E Super Stallion and landed on an elementary school sports field adjacent to Futenma's fence line.

More than 50 schoolchildren were playing at the time, and a boy was slightly injured from a pebble that flew up during impact.

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Army identifies Hawaii drowning victim as field artilleryman

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Army has identified the soldier who drowned in Hawaii on Friday as Pvt. Saie Anthony Daniel, 21, who was originally from Richmond, Va.

Daniel was a field artilleryman

and had been assigned to the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks on Oahu since February, the Army said in a statement Tuesday. He joined the Army in August.

Daniel went missing late Friday afternoon while swimming with two women in waters about

40 yards from the shore on Kai-lua Bay, near Marine Corps Base Hawaii on Oahu's windward side.

Beachgoers saw that the trio were in distress and were able to rescue the two women, but Daniel disappeared beneath the water.

Searchers with the Honolulu Fire Department and Coast

Guard scoured the waters during the next 24 hours but found no trace of him.

His body was discovered washed up on the beach early Sunday morning by a passerby, said Capt. Scot Seguirant, a spokesman for the fire department.

"With the passing of Private

Saie Daniel, we lost not only a teammate but a valued member of the 25th Infantry Division," Lt. Col. Scott Sinclair, 3-7 Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, said in the statement.

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MILITARY

Okinawa Marines refine combat driving skills

By CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II
Stars and Stripes

CAMP SCHWAB, Okinawa — Motor transportation Marines took to the jungle recently to refine their combat driving abilities and get acquainted with their surroundings during an Advanced Motor Vehicle Operations Course.

Marines of Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 3rd Marine Logistics Group navigated several obstacles, including muddy water, vertical terrain and tight turns on May 23.

"It helps us prepare for anything that the battalion might be required to do to sustain our supported units, to work with partner nations, including the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, and react to any crisis in the region," said Lt. Col. Dana Demer, battalion commander.

"This is my third time on (the) island. I'm not from Okinawa, but Okinawa is my home, so we ensure our drivers who share the road with our families and our Okinawa friends operate in a safe manner," he said.

The training took place after recent mishaps involving military vehicles stateside and overseas.

A Marine deployed to Australia — Lance Cpl. Hans Sandoval-Pereyra, 21 — died from injuries he received in a tactical vehicle accident on May 25.

On May 9, Marine 1st Lt. Conor McDowell was killed when a light armored vehicle rolled over during training at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The accident was the fourth fatal rollover training accident for the military this year and the second at Pendleton, according to the Orange County Register.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Braica, of the

1st Marine Raider Battalion, was killed April 13 when his tactical vehicle rolled over on the base.

During the Advanced Motor Vehicle Operations Course, operators are trained to transport and supply troops in a jungle or city environment.

"We don't know where the next battle is and what environment it might be in," said Staff Sgt. Andre Stephens, motor transport operations chief. "This right here gives us a good, austere environment."

Marine motor transport operators stationed on Okinawa

'We are training for that future battle.'

Staff Sgt. Andre Stephens

motor transport operations chief

are initially trained at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and then take the advanced course on the island to enhance their ability to perform in daily operations or respond to an emergency, according to the commanding officer.

"I think it is important to understand that forces stationed on Okinawa support the entire region," Demer said.

"At a moment's notice, our battalion is ready to go to respond to any crisis."

The battalion consists of about 300 Marines and sailors who employ Humvees and Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, or MTRV, cargo trucks to support the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force.

"We are training for that future battle," Stephens said. "Any climate, anyplace and anywhere, that's what we train for."

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PHOTOS BY CARLOS VAZQUEZ/Stars and Stripes

Marines take a Humvee over an obstacle on the Advanced Motor Vehicle Operations Course at Camp Schwab, Okinawa, on May 23.



Marines explain the Advanced Motor Vehicle Operations Course before it begins.



Marines take a Humvee through the course during training.

Navy raises Union Jack flags to commemorate Battle of Midway

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The U.S. Navy officially switched to flying the Union Jack flag aboard its ships Tuesday, a move timed to coincide with the 77th anniversary of its role in the decisive Battle of Midway in World War II.

During a ceremony commemorating the battle aboard the destroyer USS Chung-Hoon at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the 50-star Union Jack was hoisted for the first time since 2002, when it had been replaced by the First Navy Jack in response to the 9/11 attacks.

Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations, announced in February that the Navy would be returning to its long tradition of flying the Union Jack, a version of which was first flown in 1777.

Capt. Joseph Naman, chief of staff for Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, told the ship's crew: "Your role in the United States Navy is vital. The job you



KENNETH RODRIGUEZ SANTIAGO/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A sailor raises the Union Jack aboard the USS Chung-Hoon during a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, on Tuesday.

are doing right now will contribute to the overall success or failure in the challenges facing our generation. That's the reminder of the Union Jack and the lesson that the Battle of Midway teaches us."

roughly 1,500 miles northwest of Hawaii. The American fleet, however, caught the Japanese armada by surprise and it lost almost 300 planes, a cruiser and four aircraft carriers, which had been among the six used in the attack on Pearl Harbor six months earlier. About 2,500 Japanese died.

The U.S. had far fewer losses, with 300 men dead and the carrier Yorktown and a destroyer sunk.

"With the decisive victory at Midway the United States would begin the long struggle to roll back a proud and determined foe," Naman said in a Navy statement. "It would be the unquenchable spirit of this great nation and the United States Navy that would turn the tables on the Axis powers."

The Navy had switched over to flying the First Navy Jack in 2002 in a symbolic response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, the statement said. The flag is adorned with a rattlesnake and the words, "Don't Tread on Me."

That flag also has a long history in the service, but by custom it had been reserved for the commissioned ship having the longest total period in active status, according to the Navy.

In a statement in February announcing the change, Richardson said, "Make no mistake: we have entered a new era of competition. We must recommit to the core attributes that made us successful at Midway: integrity, accountability, initiative, and toughness."

"For more than two hundred and forty years, the Union Jack, flying proudly from jackstaffs aboard U.S. Navy warships, has symbolized these strengths."

As of Tuesday, the only Navy warship authorized to fly the "rattlesnake" jack is the USS Blue Ridge, an amphibious command ship commissioned in 1970, the Navy said.

Home-ported at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, the Blue Ridge is the 7th Fleet command ship.

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MILITARY



WILFREDO LEE/AP

Children line up to enter a tent at the Homestead Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children in Homestead, Fla., on Feb. 19. The Department of Health and Human Services is looking at Fort Benning in Georgia as a place to house migrant children.

Fort Benning eyed to house migrant children

By ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Department of Health and Human Services officials will tour vacant facilities at Fort Benning in Georgia as a potential location to house unaccompanied migrant children as the department braces for what could be a record year for children in its care, according to an HHS statement emailed Tuesday.

The need for the additional housing for children comes from a "dramatic spike" in children referred to HHS' Office of Refugee Resettlement from the Department of Homeland Security.

The office cares for children ages 17 and younger who enter the United States without a parent or guardian or immigration status and who are apprehended by the Department of Homeland Security. Some children are apprehended while crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, and others are referred to immigration authorities at some point after entering the U.S.

Homeland Security has sent about 40,900 children to the Office of Refugee Resettlement this fiscal year, an increase of nearly 57 percent from fiscal year 2018, according to the statement. Children remain in care until a suitable sponsor can be identified.

"If this rate of referrals continues, ORR will care for the largest number of [unaccompanied migrant children] in the program's history," the statement reads.

Based on the anticipated

growth in referrals, the office is preparing for the need for more beds to house children, so it is turning to the Pentagon, which in March began identifying space on military installations to house up to 5,000 migrant children through Sept. 30, which ends fiscal year 2019.

Defense officials will join HHS staff as they tour the vacant property available at Fort Benning for potential future use, according to the statement. Officials did not say Tuesday why Fort Benning was identified as a possible site to house children, nor did they say when the tour of the base will take place. HHS officials will then decide whether it suits their needs.

Fort Benning is located on about 182,000 acres near Columbus and has about 30,000 active-duty soldiers on post each day, according to information from the base public affairs office. Its population fluctuates based on the number of soldiers attending training at the many training courses offered on base. It is home to Maneuver Center of Excellence, as well as schools for Army Rangers, snipers, and armor and infantry officers.

"This effort will have no impact on [the Defense Department's] ability to conduct its primary missions nor on military readiness," the statement reads. HHS would reimburse the cost of housing the children at the base to the Defense Department under the provisions of the Economy Act.

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Ukraine's new president commits to NATO and EU

BRUSSELS — Ukraine's new president says his country still hopes to become a member of the NATO military alliance and the European Union but he is open to peace talks with neighboring Russia.

Standing beside NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in Brussels on Tuesday, Volodymyr Zelenskyy said "the strategic course of Ukraine to

achieve full-fledged membership in the EU and NATO ... remains unchanged."

Zelenskyy says "armed aggression from Russia is a major challenge" but he stands ready to negotiate with Moscow and respect the Minsk agreement meant to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

From The Associated Press

Marine charged in hazing death will plead guilty

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Marine Raider charged in the 2017 hazing death of a Green Beret in Africa will plead guilty Thursday to negligent homicide and other charges for his role in a "stupid prank that went horribly wrong," his defense attorney said.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell Jr. faces a felony-level general court-martial at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia for his role in the June 4, 2017, death of Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar in the Malian capital city of Bamako where they were deployed. Maxwell is one of four special operators charged in Melgar's death and will become the second to plead guilty to his involvement.

Brian Bouffard, Maxwell's civilian lawyer, said Tuesday that the Marine had reached a pre-trial agreement with prosecutors and was prepared "to accept responsibility for his role" in Melgar's death. In addition to pleading guilty to negligent homicide, which is the lowest level of criminal homicide that can be charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Maxwell will plead guilty to other charges including burglary and obstruction of justice, Bouffard said.

"This is a tragedy on multiple levels," Bouffard said. "... I don't believe any of these four men ... had the intent or desire to kill Logan Melgar. This death was an accident."

Nonetheless, Bouffard said Maxwell and the others involved must be held accountable for their actions during the incident and after Melgar's death, when they attempted to mislead investigators.

Maxwell faces the possibility of multiple years in prison. Negligent homicide carries a maximum penalty that includes a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowance and three years in prison, according to the UCMJ.

All four special operators charged in Melgar's death initially faced multiple charges for their roles including felony murder, involuntary manslaughter, conspiracy, obstruction of justice, hazing and burglary.

Maxwell's court-martial comes just weeks after

Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Adam Matthews pleaded guilty to reduced charges that he conspired to commit an assault and battery, unlawful entry and obstructed justice. In a lower-level special court-martial May 16, Matthews was sentenced to one year in prison, a two-grade reduction in rank to petty officer 2nd class and a bad conduct discharge.

The others charged, Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Tony DeDolph and Marine Raider Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez, have yet to face a judge in their cases.

Matthews told the military judge overseeing the case that the group never intended to kill Melgar, but they wanted to "remediate" him for perceived performance issues and a "slight" from the previous night, accusing him of abandoning Maxwell and Madera-Rodriguez in an area of Bamako with which they were unfamiliar.

The SEAL, who had been a member of the Naval Special Warfare Development Group or SEAL Team 6 since 2005, said the group used a sledgehammer to break into Melgar's quarters where he was asleep. He said they had planned to duct-tape his hands and feet and videotape him "to embarrass him."

But Melgar became unresponsive and eventually died as DeDolph held him in a headlock, Matthews said.

"Words cannot express how deeply I regret those events and how remorseful I am," Matthews said during his court-martial before he was sentenced. "The Navy expected me to be a leader. I am tormented by my complicity at a time when my teammates required my guidance and the situation required bold, corrective action."

Maxwell, who is from Indiana, enlisted in the Marine Corps in November 2007 and served in Afghanistan, according to service records.

He served with the 3rd Marine Air Wing at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina from 2009 to 2012. He graduated Marine Raider training in February 2013 and has since served with the elite 3rd Marine Special Operations Battalion.

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Navy says Russian jet intercepted US aircraft 3 times over Mediterranean

By SCOTT WYLAND

Stars and Stripes

A Russian fighter intercepted a Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft three times over the Mediterranean Sea on Tuesday, with two of the passes deemed unsafe, Navy officials said.

A Sukhoi Su-35 flew at high speed directly in front of the Poseidon on the second pass, which put the pilot and crew at risk, the Navy said in a statement.

"While the Russian aircraft was operating in international airspace, this interaction was irresponsible," the 6th Fleet statement said. "We expect them to behave within international standards set to ensure safety and to prevent incidents. Unsafe actions increase the risk of miscalculation and potential for midair collisions."

The U.S. surveillance aircraft was operating consistent with international law and did not pro-

voked the Russian pilot, who intercepted the Poseidon three times over about three hours, the Navy said.

It was not clear from the statement where exactly the incident happened, but Su-35 air-superiority fighters have been operating out of the Russian air base of Khmeimim in western Syria since 2016.

It was the latest incident of its

kind between Russian jets and U.S. planes or its allies over the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. American and NATO officials have said repeatedly that the Russians engage in unpredictable maneuvers that include flying without transponders turned on, which the Russians have denied.

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MILITARY

AF general fired; unprofessional relationship cited

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

The two-star general at the helm of the Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada was relieved of command Sunday because of an alleged unprofessional relationship.

Maj. Gen. Peter Gersten, who has led the center at the Air Force base since July 2017, is now part of an ongoing investigation, according to the statement released Wednesday from Air Combat Command at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia.

Gen. Mike Holmes, commander of the Air Combat Command, made the decision to relieve Gersten due to a loss of confidence in Gersten's ability to continue in a leadership position because of the alleged relationship, according to the statement.

"The Air Force holds leaders to



Gersten

high standards and expects them to uphold the core values of the service at all times," the statement reads.

Brig. Gen. David Snoddy, the center's vice commander, will replace Gersten until Maj. Gen. Charles Corcoran, who was previously announced as the next Air Force Warfare Center commander, takes command in July.

Gersten is an F-16 Falcon pilot and a 1989 graduate of the Air Force Academy, according to his online biography. He has more than 400 combat hours over Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Bosnia.

He previously held command of the 4th Fighter Squadron at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, the 8th Operations Group at Kunsan Air Base in South Korea and the 432nd Wing and 432nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada.

The warfare center as a training and testing ground with units at Nellis and multiple other installations, according to the Air Force base website. The center has about 11,000 uniformed and civilian personnel.

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DOD contractor escapes penalty despite report

Bloomberg

The Pentagon's top weapons buyer declined to impose disciplinary action recommended by the inspector general after Leidos Holdings Inc. for allegedly retaliating against a woman who complained of a hostile work environment at a subcontractor.

Ellen Lord, the under secretary of defense for acquisition, "disagreed with the substantiation of the complaint and declined to take further action," Inspector General Glenn Fine's office disclosed Tuesday in its latest semi-annual report.

Fine found the worker's complaint valid in a January 2018 report. Fine determined that Leidos dropped the woman from a follow-up contract for the Office of Economic Adjustment "in reprisal" after she complained to the Defense Department and Leidos that a supervisor at the subcontractor she worked for made "inappropriate sexual and racial comments to her."

"We found that" Leidos "had motives to exclude" her, the inspector general said in the report.

Lt. Col. Mike Andrews, a spokes-

man for Lord, said in a statement that her decision against taking action "does not mean" she "takes issue with the fundamental factual findings of the IG report, nor does it mean that she condones, in any way whatsoever, the creation of a hostile work environment."

Instead, Lord disagreed that there was a legal basis for the inspector general's recommendation that she order Leidos, a major Pentagon information technology contractor, to "put the employee in as good a place as she would have been had the non-selection for follow-on work not occurred," Andrews said.

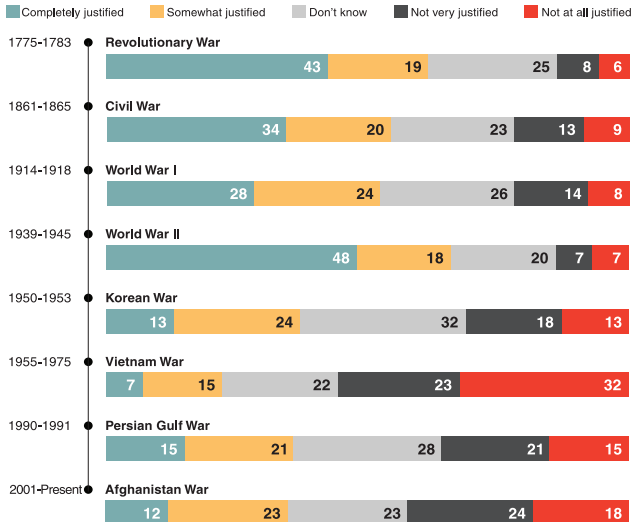
Fine said in a statement that "we stand by the report's conclusions, and we believe that the law and the facts fully support the finding of reprisal against Leidos."

Leidos didn't respond to a request for comment on Tuesday. In a policy statement on its website, the Reston, Va.-based company says "we believe diversity and inclusion create cohesive and collaborative teams" and shape "how we recruit talent." The subcontractor wasn't identified.

America's thoughts on war

Based on what you know about each of the following American military involvements, how justified, if at all, do you believe the United States' role was?

Percentage who responded:



SOURCE: YouGov.com

Noca Anti-rav/Stars and Stripes

Poll: Generations divided on earlier wars

FROM FRONT PAGE

Few Americans feel there is never a reason for war — fewer than 1 out of 10 said so — but most said wars were rarely justified.

Slightly more than half said the Civil War and World War I were justified. Less than half of the participants believed major U.S. military interventions since 1945 — the Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War and Afghanistan — were worth fighting, while between roughly a quarter and a third in each case said they didn't know.

It's unclear whether this reflected conscious feelings or a lack of awareness about the wars.

Respondents were not asked about the Iraq War from 2003 to 2011 or the campaign against the Islamic State that began in 2014.

America's split on WWII was generational, with those born in the past 40 years least likely to support America's role in the struggle.

Among millennials, defined as the generation born between 1982 and 1999, 19% said it was unjustified, along with 17% of those born later. About 12% of Generation Xers and Baby Boomers held the same views.

Millennials, however, were least likely to have qualms about America's involvement in Vietnam, with 25% of them defending it at least somewhat and 43% opposing it. By comparison, 80% of the genera-

tion born between 1928 and 1945 and 64% of Baby Boomers found it unwarranted.

Americans were evenly divided on the Persian Gulf War, launched after Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait in 1990, with both 36% of those polled supporting it and opposing it and 28% saying they didn't know.

The U.S. invasion of Afghanistan after 9/11 and its ongoing mission there was seen as unwarranted by 42% of those polled, the second-highest percentage after the Vietnam War. Thirty-five percent supported it.

Republicans and Democrats differed on most wars, with Republicans more likely to justify them, but the divide was most pronounced with their views on Afghanistan. Of Republicans, 55% supported it, whereas 56% of Democrats opposed it.

And, while a majority of Americans believed another world war will happen by 2059, less than half believe that the U.S. is as effective working with its military allies today compared with the international cooperation that made the Normandy landings possible on June 6, 1944.

The number who said they anticipate a world war in the next 40 years dipped slightly, from 64% last year to 59% this year.

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Pair who sold scar cream to Marines face trial

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Separate trials are being sought by a couple accused of defrauding the U.S. military out of \$65 million in a scheme involving prescriptions for pain and scar cream.

The Tennessean reported a recently filed court motion said

Jimmy and Ashley Collins each plan to claim the other was the leader of a conspiracy to sell expensive pain and scar cream to Marines in California.

The couple is accused of managing a network of recruiters to persuade Marines to sign up for prescriptions for the cream,

which was priced at about \$14,000 per prescription. A Marine veteran who was the lead recruiter pleaded guilty last year.

Doctors who never examined the Marines wrote the prescriptions that were then filled by a Utah pharmacy that billed military insurance.

WAR/MILITARY

8 US citizens detained during ISIS battles are sent home

By Liz Sly

The Washington Post

BEIRUT — Eight American citizens taken into Kurdish custody in northeastern Syria during the fight against Islamic State have been repatriated to the United States, America's Syrian Kurdish allies said Wednesday.

The eight include two women and six children, and they were sent back "without any pressure or coercion" after the U.S. authorities submitted a request for their return, according to a statement issued by the Kurdish-led civilian administration in northeastern Syria.

The statement did not identify the Americans or say how they came to be in Syria, but officials had earlier said the eight were among around 13,000 foreigners, including around 8,000 children and 4,000 women, who had volunteered to join ISIS. They are all now being detained in prisonlike camps following the territorial defeat of the militants in March,

according to figures supplied by the Kurdish authorities.

The transfers are the first publicly announced repatriations of U.S. citizens since the ISIS war resulted in the capture or detention of many of the tens of thousands of foreigners who had flocked to join the group as it seized territory across Syria and Iraq earlier this decade. A small number have been sent back to the United States to face terrorism charges.

However, only a few dozen U.S. citizens are believed to have traveled to join the militants, according to counterterrorism analysts, making the United States one of the smallest contributors to ISIS' strength compared with other nations. A fraction of those known to have volunteered have been detained by the Kurds, including two Americans — Hoda Muthana, of Alabama and Kimberly Gwen Polman, a dual U.S.-Canadian citizen — who were interviewed by The New York Times in Syria in February.

It was not immediately clear whether they were the two American women who were freed, and the Kurdish authorities would not say whether any other Americans are still being held.

Most Western governments have been reluctant to repatriate their citizens — including, until now, the United States — for a variety of reasons, including the fears that they will pose a security threat, pressure from constituents who don't want them living in their communities and the logistical challenges of reaching the remote area of northeast Syria where they are held.

The Kurdish authorities are, however, pressing foreign governments to take them back, saying they also pose a danger in northeastern Syria, where Kurdish forces lack the capacity to care for them indefinitely. In one camp alone, al-Hawl, 3,200 foreign women and 7,900 foreign children are being held alongside more than 60,000 Syrians and Iraqis, according to figures pro-



FELIPE DANA/AP

A woman is frisked by a U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces fighter at a screening area March 1 in Syria. A Kurdish official in northern Syria on Wednesday said local authorities have transferred eight Americans who were captured with ISIS back to the U.S.

vided by the Kurdish authorities. Abdulkarim Omar, who heads the foreign relations department of the civilian authority established in northeastern Syria, said hundreds more are detained in two smaller camps.

There are also around 1,000 foreign male fighters held in prisons run by the Kurdish authorities, who are seeking international funding to bring them to trial in the self-proclaimed autonomous Kurdish region, he said.

But the authorities want to send

the women and children back to their countries. There is a risk that they could escape, he said, and the Kurds don't have the resources either to guard, feed and house them long-term or to try to rehabilitate them so that they can be released.

Kurdish officials said the U.S. military, which maintains a small number of troops in northeast Syria, helped facilitate the transfer of the Americans. The U.S. military declined to comment.



ALI ABDUL HASSAN/AP

Iraqi security forces remove concrete blast walls May 28 at the Green Zone in Baghdad. The area opened to the public Tuesday after 16 years.

Baghdad's Green Zone reopens to the public

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Baghdad's Green Zone area, the heavily fortified strip on the west bank of the Tigris River, reopened to the public Tuesday after 16 years—a move meant to portray increased confidence in the country's overall security situation after years of war.

Maj. Gen. Jassim Yahya Abd Ali told The Associated Press that the area, which houses the U.S. Embassy and Iraqi government offices, is now open "twenty-four hours a day without any exceptions or conditions."

The 4-square-mile area, with its palm trees and monuments, has been off-limits to the public

since the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq to topple dictator Saddam Hussein.

"I feel that Baghdad is bigger than before," said Athir Assen, 25, who drove his car inside the Green Zone for the first time in his life on Tuesday. He said his generation didn't know anything about the Green Zone and felt that people there lived in another country.

"Now there is no difference, and this is beautiful," he said.

The area was home to Saddam Hussein's palaces before the war. It then became known as "Little America" following the 2003 U.S. invasion that toppled him after it was seized by U.S. military forces.

By NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Retired Marine Corps Maj. Charles "Lynn" Lowder believes there aren't enough veteran business owners — a problem he's on a personal mission to correct.

What has traditionally been a strong entrepreneurial trend among veterans is facing a generational decline, with business ownership in that population decreasing for the past 20 years, according to a federal report released in November. Lowder's solution is something like a dating website, but instead of logging on to find a love connection, wannabe business owners can look for a match among companies for sale.

To make the idea a reality, Lowder, 73, along with restaurateur Dale Eisenburg, 64, co-founded the Veteran Business Project, a nonprofit in Illinois for veterans who want to own businesses and for business owners wanting to sell.

"We're like the eHarmony for veterans that would like to become owners," he said. "We want people to come to our website, veterans interested in purchasing existing, profitable businesses, and store owners or small-business owners who can post their businesses up."

The Small Business Administration and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York compiled a report in November in which the authors acknowledged there are already "many organizations that

exist to propel veteran entrepreneurship," but there's a lack of awareness about them. The report suggested the SBA do more to get the word out.

Lowder, who is a member of the Small Business Administration Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs, argues Veteran Business Project differs from what's already available because it pairs veterans with businesses that already have a history of success.

Lowder and Eisenburg act as caseworkers once a match is made, scrutinizing everyone involved and coaching them through the financing process until a deal is firm. They've done it with a dry-cleaning business, a shipping company and an auto repair shop. And they're looking to go bigger.

A deal finalized in May — their biggest yet — could be the conduit to take their concept nationwide, Lowder believes.

The organization secured the \$250,000 purchase of a 1930s-era Chicago fireboat, recently used for tours in Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

Its new owners are Ray Novak and Erich Totsch, U.S. Navy veterans and Chicago natives.

The fireboat was retired in the early 1980s and eventually repurposed as an excursion boat in northern Lake Michigan.

Novak and Totsch, veterans of the Persian Gulf War, met a few years ago. They returned home from their time in the Navy to captain Chicago tour boats, and Novak, 41, dreamed of owning his

own business.

"I saw the boat myself and fell in love with it," Novak said of the Fred A. Busse. "I called up Erich and said, 'I have an adventure for you.'"

The duo spent 30 hours one weekend in May moving the boat back to its original home in Chicago. They plan to start tours sometime this month after undergoing inspection from the Coast Guard to permit the boat's use for charter cruises.

Before any of that could happen, the new business owners sought help from Lowder and Eisenburg to secure financing — one of the major hurdles for veterans to business ownership.

The authors of the November report theorized the military lifestyle could be to blame. Lower credit scores and more denials could be the result of frequent moves and overseas travel, the authors wrote.

For the fireboat, the Veteran Business Project worked with Wintrust Bank on behalf of Novak and Totsch to get financing. To Lowder, the deal reflects the American dream.

"Here's a chance for veterans to have their dream, own a business," he said. "And we encourage them to mentor other veterans, show them the art of the possible. We can lift this whole thing up and help each other out."

To learn more go to veteran-businessproject.org.

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Matchmaking venture seeks to boost veteran entrepreneurship

WORLD

NY set to be 1st to ban cat declawing

By DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York would be the first state in the U.S. to ban the declawing of cats under legislation approved by lawmakers at the request of cat owners, animal welfare advocates and many veterinarians who call the procedure cruel and needless.

The bill, which would subject veterinarians to \$1,000 fines for performing the operation, now heads to the desk of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, whose representatives said he will review the bill before deciding if he will sign it.

"Cats of New York: Show me your claws," said Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, D-Manhatten, who pushed the bill for years despite opposition from the state's largest veterinary society. She called cat declawing "barbaric and inhumane."

Declawing a cat is already illegal in much of Europe and in several Canadian provinces, as well as in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Denver, but no other U.S. state has voted to ban the procedure, which involves amputating a cat's toes back to the first knuckle.

Unlike human nails, a cat's claws are attached to bone, so declawing a feline requires a veterinarian to slice through tendon and nerves to remove the last segment of bone in a cat's toes. Supporters of the ban cite estimates that a quarter or more of all domestic cats in the U.S. have had the procedure.

The New York State Veterinary Medical Society had opposed the bill, arguing that declawing should be allowed as a last resort for felines that won't stop scratching furniture or humans — or when the cat's owner has a weakened immune system, putting



BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP

Griselda, a domestic cat that was declawed by her owner before being put up for adoption, plays inside her enclosure at the Animal Haven pet shelter in New York. The state's Legislature has passed a bill to make it illegal to declaw a cat.

them at greater risk of infection from a scratch.

"Medical decisions should be left to the sound discretion of fully trained, licensed and state supervised professionals," the society said in a memo opposing the legislation.

Under the bill, which easily passed the Democrat-led Senate and Assembly, veterinarians could still perform the procedure for medical reasons, such as infection or injury.

Veterinarian Michelle Brown-

stein stopped performing declawing operations 15 years ago at her Rochester-area animal hospital when she said she became convinced the procedure leaves cats with lifelong problems. Some declawed cats exhibit behavioral issues, she said, while others struggle with chronic pain.

"The end result is a barbaric procedure that results in the mutilation of the animal," she said. "Frankly, if you're worried about your furniture, then you shouldn't be getting a cat."

Family: Dad punched shark to save daughter

By MARK PRICE

The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A shark attack that cost a teenager her leg ended when her father — a Marine veteran — "punched the shark in the face," according to Janet Winter, the girl's grandmother.

Paige Winter, 17, of Havelock was attacked by a shark while standing in waist-deep water off Fort Macon as her father stood nearby, according to a GoFundMe page that had raised nearly \$35,000 as of early Tuesday afternoon.

The father, Charlie Winter, is a firefighter and paramedic and had served in the Marines, according to the campaign.

Paige Winter lost part of one

leg above the knee and some fingers, Janet Winter posted on her Facebook page.

"Thank God our son was with her," the woman wrote. "He said he punched the shark in the face five times before it let go."

Family friend Brandon Bersch confirmed the punches in a Monday interview with the "Today" show, saying Charlie Winter "began striking the shark on the nose."

"Charlie wouldn't stop until it released his little girl," Bersch told the show. "He lives for his children."

Marcy Goodrum Winter, the girl's mother, posted on Facebook that her daughter was "groggy but cracking jokes" after her first surgery on Sunday. "She wants

everyone to know that sharks are still good people," her mom was quoted saying on the GoFundMe page.

Charlie Winter's fearless attack on the shark has won him praise across the country, particularly from news outlets that cover the U.S. Marines. "Who needs a bigger boat when you have a Marine's fists?" wrote Taskand-Purpose.com.

The "horrific shark attack" occurred about 12:20 p.m. Sunday off Fort Macon State Park at Atlantic Beach, according to the GoFundMe page. Paige Winter was taken to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, where she was listed in good condition after surgery, according to the GoFundMe page.

Calif. city votes to decriminalize magic mushrooms

By SAMANTHA MALDONADO
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Oakland on Tuesday became the second U.S. city to decriminalize magic mushrooms after a string of speakers testified that psychedelics helped them overcome depression, drug addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The City Council voted unanimously to decriminalize the adult use and possession of magic mushrooms and other entheogenic, or psychoactive, plants and fungi. Denver voters in May approved a similar measure for people 21 and older.

Speakers overwhelmingly supported the move, describing substances such as ayahuasca and peyote as traditional plant-based medicines.

Use of the plants "saved my life," said one man who described himself as a former heroin addict. "I don't how to describe it other than miraculous."

Some offered mystical descriptions of the hallucinogens as providing spiritual healing.

The vote makes the investigation and arrest of adults who grow, possess, use or distribute entheogenic plants one of the lowest priorities for police. No city funds could be used to enforce laws criminalizing the substances, and the Alameda County District Attorney would stop prosecuting people who have been apprehended for use or possession.

Councilmember Noel Gallo, who introduced the resolution, had said decriminalizing such plants would enable Oakland police to focus on serious crime.

Amendments offered by Councilmember Loren Taylor added caveats that the substances "are not for everyone," recommending that people with PTSD or major depression seek professional help before using them and that people "don't go solo" but seek expert guidance and have a trusted friend present during the use.

The ordinance also directs the city administrator to come back within a year to provide the council with an assessment of the law's community impact.

"Entheogenic plants and fungi are tremendous for helping to enable healing, particularly for folks who have experienced trauma in their lives," Carlos Plazaola, chair of the advocacy group Decriminalize Nature Oakland, said before the council meeting. "These plants are being recommended pretty extensively undercover, underground, by doctors and therapists."

The Oakland Police Department did not respond to emailed messages from The Associated

Press seeking comment before the meeting. Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Teresa Drenick declined to comment.

Magic mushrooms would remain illegal under both federal and state laws. Entheogenic substances are considered Schedule 1 drugs under the federal Controlled Substances Act, which categorizes drugs that have potential for abuse and no medical value.

Skeptics had raised concerns about unsafe use, especially in schools.

To address such concerns, Gallo said earlier, lawmakers would have to establish rules and regulations about the use of such substances, including what exactly can be used, how to use them and what associated risks are.

Entheogenic plants have long been used in religious and cultural contexts. Gallo remembers his grandmother treating his family members with plants, including entheogenic ones, for a variety of ailments.

"Growing up in the Mexican community, this was our cure," he said.

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NATION

Court mulls whether climate change violates kids' rights

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — In a courtroom packed with environmental activists, federal judges wrestled Tuesday with whether climate change violates the constitutional rights of young people who have sued the U.S. government over the use of fossil fuels.

A Justice Department attorney warned three judges from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that allowing the case to go to trial would be unprecedented and open the doors to more lawsuits.

"This case would have earth-shattering consequences," Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Clark said.

He called the lawsuit "a direct attack on the separation of powers" and said the 21 young people who filed it want the courts to direct U.S. energy policy instead of government officials.

The young people are pressing

the government to stop promoting the use of fossil fuels, saying sources such as coal and oil cause climate change and violate their Fifth Amendment rights to life, liberty and property.

The judges seemed to feel the enormity of the case, which the plaintiffs' lawyer compared in scope to the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling that mandated desegregation of schools in the 1950s.

If the case moves forward, the judiciary would be "dealing with different branches of government and telling them what to do," said Judge Andrew Hurwitz, instead of issuing court orders telling officials to stop doing something deemed unconstitutional.

The dire threat to people, particularly the young, demands such action, said Julia Olson, chief legal counsel for Our Children's Trust, which is representing the plaintiffs.

"When our great-grand-

children look back on the 21st century, they will see that government-sanctioned climate destruction was the constitutional issue of this century," Olson told the judges.

The lawsuit asks the courts to declare federal energy policy that contributes to climate change unconstitutional, order the government to quickly phase out carbon dioxide emissions to a certain level by 2100 and mandate a national climate recovery plan.

The Obama and Trump administrations have tried to get the case dismissed since it was filed in Oregon in 2015.

"It's just really disappointing to see the lengths that they go to — to not only not let us get the remedy that we're seeking, but not even let us have the chance to prove our facts or present our case at trial," said Nathan Baring, 19, from Fairbanks, Alaska, who joined the lawsuit when he was 15.



ROBIN LOZNAN/AP

Young plaintiffs in the Juliana v. United States climate change lawsuit gather in a federal courthouse for a hearing in Portland, Ore., on Tuesday.

The young people argue that government officials have known for more than 50 years that carbon pollution from fossil fuels causes climate change and that policies promoting oil and gas deprive them of their constitutional rights.

Lawyers for President Donald Trump's administration say the young people didn't find any "historical basis for a fundamental

right to a stable climate system or any other constitutional right related to the environment."

The lawsuit says the young are more vulnerable to serious effects from climate change in the future.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, 14 other health organizations and nearly 80 scientists and doctors agreed in a brief filed with the appeals court.



DRONEBASE/AP

Flooding along the Arkansas River in Pine Bluff, Ark., is shown on Tuesday.

Officials: Flood won't sink city's hopes

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — An economically struggling Arkansas city in the midst of a revitalization plan continued flooding Tuesday as the Arkansas River crested its banks, but local officials said even after the waters recede, the community's resilience will bolster recovery.

Pine Bluff Mayor Shirley Washington said federal and state aid will be crucial to help the town of about 42,000 clean up and rebuild after the record-breaking flooding.

The river wasn't expected to crest at its high of 51 feet until about 1 a.m. Thursday in the city, which is located about 40 miles southeast of Little Rock. The Arkansas River has been flooding for almost two weeks after intense rainfall in Oklahoma and Kansas forced officials to release water from a strained dam northwest of Tulsa.

Last week, an evacuation order was issued for about 550 homes within the levee system, said Karen Blevins, the county's director of emergency management. Because many of the flooded homes are within the levee system, it's possible that homeowners have flood insurance, though it's unclear how many actually do.

Laurie Driver, spokeswoman for the Army Corps of Engineers, said there's concern throughout the state about the strength of the levees, which are being strained with more water for longer periods of time than ever before.

If the levees do fail in Pine Bluff, that would be devastating for the city, which has its share of difficulties even in dry weather.

According to government data, the unemployment rate in Pine Bluff peaked at almost 12% in January 2011 and hovered around 10% until mid-2014, though now it's around 5%. The median household income between 2013 and 2017 was about \$32,000, about \$11,000 below the state average.

But even with the threat of catastrophic flooding and the institutional economic disadvantages, city officials said Pine Bluff can still recover and rebuild.

Officials are relying heavily on the prospect of state and federal funding, which will come if President Donald Trump declares a major disaster, as he's done in some counties in Oklahoma.

Washington said the strength of the city has demonstrated Pine Bluff's ability to rebuild.

"I think we can overcome this," Washington said. "We're going to keep Pine Bluff moving forward."

House OKs Democrats' immigration bill despite threat of veto

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats shunned a White House veto threat and muscled legislation through the House on Tuesday that would bestow a chance for citizenship on an estimated 2 million-plus migrants, a bill that stands virtually no chance of enactment but lets them showcase their efforts on one of their highest-profile priorities.

The measure is just one skirmish in Democrats' multi-front battle against most congressional Republicans over immigration, an issue that has deadlocked the two parties for decades but intensified under the harsh policies and rhetoric of President Donald Trump. It is likely faced to join a host of other House-passed measures advancing Democrats' agenda that are running aground in the GOP-run Senate, including legislation on health care, gun control, climate change and election security.

The bill passed on a near party-line 237-187 vote as supporters in the House visitors' galleries roared "Yes We Can" and other chants, a rare display of raucous emotion in a chamber whose rules require decorum by its guests. Seven Republicans from mostly moderate districts were the only lawmakers to cross party lines.

As if to underscore the relentlessness and sweep of the immigration fight, the Democratic-led House Appropriations Committee took its own swipe at Trump by unveiling a separate bill that

provides no additional money next year for building the president's long-sought barriers along the southwest border.

That measure also claws back a portion of the billions of dollars Trump has unilaterally diverted toward constructing portions of his wall.

The House-passed bill would protect from deportation and provide a pathway toward citizenship for young migrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Many would be "Dreamers" currently safeguarded by the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which only the federal courts have thwarted Trump from dismantling.

It would also shield others here temporarily because their home countries — chiefly in Central America, Africa and the Middle East — have been ravaged by wars or natural disasters.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that more than 2 million people already in the U.S. would get legal status under the House bill. The analysts also said the measure would cost more than \$30 billion over the next decade, largely because many migrants attaining legal status would qualify for federal benefits such as Medicaid.

Among the bill's supporters are the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO labor organization, immigration and liberal groups.

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NATION

Homelessness rises 12% in LA County, according to study

By Christopher Weber
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The number of homeless people counted across Los Angeles County jumped 12% over the past year to nearly 59,000, with more young and old residents and families on the streets, officials said Tuesday.

The majority of the homeless were found within the city of Los Angeles, which saw a 16% increase to 36,300, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority said in presenting January's annual count to the county Board of Supervisors.

The increase was registered a year after the previous tally found a slight decrease in the county's homeless population.

The problem was apparent just outside the board meeting, where a man and a woman were camped out on a small patch of lawn. Tents regularly pop up on the pavement outside nearby City Hill, and hundreds of people live in makeshift shanties that line entire blocks in the notorious neighborhood known as Skid Row.

The county's Homeless Services Authority said it helped 21,631 people move into permanent housing during 2018 — a pace that would have helped rapidly end homelessness if economic pressures had not simultaneously pushed thousands more out of their homes.

But while some people who had been homeless managed to get

permanent places to live, others who had homes were forced onto the streets of metro Los Angeles' vast urban sprawl.

"People are being housed out of homelessness and falling into homelessness on a continuous basis," said Peter Lynn, the authority's executive director.

About a quarter of those counted became homeless for the first time in 2018, and about half of those cited economic hardship as the primary cause, the authority said. To reduce homelessness, communities must overcome resistance to the placement of housing and shelters, officials said.

Three years ago, Los Angeles voters approved a tax increase and \$1.2 billion housing bond to make a decade's worth of massive investments to help solve the homeless crisis. That bond money has been committed to build more than half of the 10,000 new housing units planned countywide over the next decade, Lynn said.

The Skid Row area is "ground zero" for the crisis, where the smell of human waste permeates the air and violence is common, said Estela Lopez, of the Downtown Industrial Business Improvement District.

The district's business members, mainly fish and produce vendors, pay additional property tax on on-demand power-washing of sidewalks and a private security force that mediates disputes and clears people congregating at companies' front doors and loading docks.



TRACY GLANTZ, THE (COLUMBIA, S.C.) STATE/AP

Timothy Jones Jr. stands with his attorney, Boyd Young, at court in Lexington, S.C., on Tuesday after being found guilty in the deaths of his five children in 2014.

Dad found guilty of killing 5 children faces possible death sentence in SC

By Jeffrey Collins
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A jury convicted a South Carolina father of murder Tuesday in the deaths of his five young children, allowing prosecutors to seek the death penalty.

The Lexington County jury considered the case for about six hours over two days before returning the five guilty verdicts for murder against Timothy Jones Jr., who showed no reaction.

That same jury will return Thursday to begin hearing evidence from prosecutors who will portray Jones as a selfish, evil father who decided after killing one child that all his children should

die instead of ending up with his ex-wife and who should be executed for his crimes.

Jones' lawyers are expected to argue he was a doting, single father who put himself through college while married with children — a computer engineer with an \$80,000-a-year job whose mental problems built until stress from his wife's infidelity and drug use drove him over the edge.

Jones, 37, confessed to exercising Nahtahn, 6, until he died after an electrical outlet was broken in his Lexington home in August 2014.

Prosecutors said Jones then considered what to do for several hours — watching a prison rape scene from a movie and heading

to a store for cigarettes with his oldest child while leaving the others at home with the body — before deciding to kill them all.

Jones would eventually strangle Mera, 8, and Elias, 7, with his hands and, in his confession, said he used a belt to choke Gabriel, 2, and Abigail, 1, because his hands were too big, prosecutor Rick Hubbard said in his closing argument Monday.

Jones then wrapped the bodies of all five children in plastic and drove around the Southeast U.S. for nine days, running a few errands, buying synthetic marijuana, but mainly making erratic trips, Hubbard said, citing bank and cellphone records.

Deputy charged for inaction in school shooting

By Curt Anderson
and Terry Spencer
Associated Press

MIAMI — The Florida deputy who knew a gunman was loose at the Parkland high school but refused to go inside to confront the assailant was arrested Tuesday on 11 criminal charges related to his inaction during the massacre that killed 17 people.

Scott Peterson was on duty as the resource officer at Stoneman Douglas High School on the day of the February 2018 shooting but never entered the building while bullets were flying. He was charged with child neglect, culpable negligence and perjury — allegations that carry a maximum prison sentence of nearly 100 years.

Peterson was seen on surveillance video rushing with two staff members toward the building where the shooting happened. When they arrived, he put his weapon and went forward but then retreated and took up a position outside, where he stood



SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL/AP

Former school resource officer Scott Peterson appears in magistrate court via television feed from the Broward County Main Jail in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

with his gun drawn.

The charges follow a 14-month investigation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which conducted interviews with 184 witnesses, reviewed hours of surveillance videos and compiled 212 investigative reports, the agency said.

Peterson "did absolutely nothing to mitigate" the shooting, FDLE Commissioner Rick Swearingen said in a statement. "There can be no excuse for his complete inaction and no question that his inaction cost lives."

Bill to legalize assisted suicide in Maine advances to governor

By Marina Villeneuve
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine — The Maine Legislature voted Tuesday to legalize assisted suicide, with supporters declaring it in line with the state's tradition of individualism and opponents insisting the practice tempts fate.

The bill now goes to Democratic Gov. Janet Mills, who has 10 days to act on the bill and has not indicated whether she will let it become law. Her office said she has not yet taken a position.

The proposal had failed once in a statewide vote and at least seven previous times in the Legislature. If Mills signs it, Maine would join seven other states, including New Jersey this year, and Washington, D.C., with similar laws, according to the Death With Dignity National Center and the Death With Dignity Political Fund.

Maine's bill would allow doctors to prescribe terminally ill people a fatal dose of medication. The bill declares that obtaining or administering life-ending medication is not suicide under state law. Still, it

effectively legalizes it.

The proposal passed the Democratic-led state Senate 19-16 on Tuesday after lawmakers recounted the last days of their own loved ones. The Democratic-led House had approved it Monday by the narrowest of margins — 73-72.

Maine has the oldest average state population. But as in other states, the proposal has exposed divisions regardless of party line.

"I hope you will come down on the side of the terminally ill, people who don't seem to be asking for too much: the right to choose their own end of life care," said Republican Sen. Marianne Moore, a supporter who pointed to the bill's pages of protections for terminally ill patients. That captures the spirit of the "libertarian Maine tradition" of individual rights, she said.

Critics argue that doctors can make mistakes and the bill could have unintended consequences. Republican Sen. Scott Cyrway said he has had relatives live for years longer than expected after being told they had a few months to live.

WORLD



Sudanese men and a child headed to a mosque navigate a roadblock set up by protesters on a main street in the capital, Khartoum, to stop military vehicles from driving through the area Wednesday.

Sudanese generals seek new talks as death toll reaches 60

By BASSAM HATUOM
AND SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Sudan's military council said Wednesday the ruling generals are ready to resume negotiations with the opposition after three days of a violent crackdown on pro-democracy protesters that left 60 dead across the country.

The head of the council, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, said there would be "no restrictions" in talks with the leaders behind the monthslong street protests.

"We open our hands to negotiations with all parties... for the interest of the nation," Burhan said, adding that those responsible for the violent breakup of

the demonstrators' sit-in in the capital, Khartoum, would be held accountable.

There was no immediate reaction from the protest movement.

The motives for Burhan's about-face — if sincere — were not immediately clear. Burhan had earlier cut the negotiations and canceled all agreed-on points between the military and the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change, an alliance which represents the protesters.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the military's violent crackdown on protesters reached 60 on Wednesday, organizers said.

The mounting casualties are the latest challenge to the protest movement, which now aims to show it can keep up pressure in

the streets after its rallying point — the weeklong sit-in outside the military headquarters in Khartoum — was wiped out Monday.

In April, the movement succeeded in forcing the military to remove Sudan's longtime strongman, Omar al-Bashir. It then kept its sit-in going, demanding that the generals who took power hand over authority to civilians.

The last previously reported death toll stood at 40, but the Sudan Doctors Committee said security forces killed at least 10 people Wednesday in Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman. That came after another 10 people were killed Tuesday, including five in the White Nile state, three in Omdurman and two in Khartoum's Bahri neighborhood.



JULIAN SMITH, AAP IMAGE/AP

Cardinal George Pell, center rear, arrives on Wednesday at the Supreme Court of Victoria in Melbourne to begin his appeal of his convictions for molesting two choirboys more than 20 years ago.

that the five verdicts against Pell were "unsafe and unsatisfactory" and should be overturned.

Pell's lawyers cited former High Court Justice Michael McHugh who said "juries are likely to be affected by the prejudices and even the hysterias that from time to time are found in the community."

Demonstrator Joe Mitchell, 83,

drove more than 600 miles from his home in Newcastle in New South Wales state to Melbourne to protest outside the court against the church response to child abuse.

"I'm a victim. I hope they put a rope around his... neck," a tearful Mitchell said. "They say how could you remember back 70 years? I remember everything."

Leader says Iran will resist US pressure

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Tuesday that Iran will continue resisting U.S. economic and political pressure.

Khamenei addressed thousands of people on the 30th anniversary of the death of Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic, at Khomeini's mausoleum in the capital Tehran.

Without referring to the U.S. by name, Khamenei said "standing and resisting the enemy's excessive demands and bullying is the only way to stop him."

Tensions between Washington and Tehran soared recently over America deployment of an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf over a threat it perceives from Tehran.

Last year, the U.S. withdrew from a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and reimposed sanctions on Iran targeting the country's oil sector.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said the U.S. is willing to talk with Iran "with no preconditions." Iran says the U.S. must return to the deal first.

Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, said the U.S. is threatening Iran with hostility

because "they want us to be losers and put our hands up as a sign of surrender, and because we don't do that, they threaten us."

Khamenei added: "Resistance

has a cost, but the cost of surrendering to the enemy is higher."

The ayatollah urged Iranian officials not to pay attention to offers for negotiations made by the U.S.

The Supreme Leader added that Iran is under pressure to negotiate over its missile program because it has been developed to the point where it is a deterrent.

Khamenei also criticized Iran's regional rival, Saudi Arabia, for taking a stance against Iran in accordance with the U.S. position.

Saudi Arabia recently held a series of summits with Muslim countries and accused Iran's behavior of threatening regional stability and security.

Iran rejected the accusation.

German former nurse offers apology at trial for 100 deaths

By DAVID RISING
Associated Press

BERLIN — A former nurse on trial on allegations he killed 100 patients at two hospitals in northern Germany apologized to his victims' relatives in a final statement to the court Wednesday, saying he realized how much pain and suffering he had caused with his "terrible deeds."

"To each and every one of you I sincerely apologize for all that I have done," Niels Hoegel, 42, told the Oldenburg regional court after his defense attorneys had made their closing arguments, according to the dpa news agency.

His defense attorneys argued for acquittals in 31 of the 100 counts of murder against him.

In total, the deaths — which took place at a hospital in Oldenburg between 1999 and 2002 and another hospital in nearby Delmenhorst from 2003 to 2005 — are thought to be the largest

string of serial killings in post-war Germany. Hoegel's alleged victims ranged in age from 34 to 96.

"Neither we nor Mr. Hoegel deny that he is the perpetrator in many cases," one of his defenders, Ulrike Baumann, told the court. "But he can only be convicted for crimes he committed and not for crimes he could have committed."

Hoegel was convicted in 2015 of two murders and two attempted murders. He said at his first trial that he intentionally brought about cardiac crises in some 90 patients in Delmenhorst because he enjoyed the feeling of being able to resuscitate them. He later told investigators that he also killed patients in Oldenburg.

Authorities subsequently investigated hundreds of deaths. Pleas are not entered in the German legal system but during the seven-month trial, Hoegel admitted to 43 of the killings.

Australian cardinal appeals sex convictions

By ROD MCGUIRK
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Lawyers for the most senior Roman Catholic found guilty of child sex abuse argued in his appeal on Wednesday that he could not have molested two choirboys in an Australian cathedral undetected moments after Sunday Masses while he was dressed in an archbishop's robes.

Cardinal George Pell, 77, wore a black suit and black shirt with a cleric's collar when he appeared for the Victoria state Court of Appeal hearing before three judges. He came and went from the court as the sole occupant of a prison van.

Pell's lawyer, Bret Walker, argued for more than five hours

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Officials capture bear spotted on campus

CA DAVIS — Officials at the University of California, Davis said a bear spotted on campus has been captured and removed from the university.

UC Davis said in a tweet and a message to students that fish and game officials “safely detained and removed” the animal.

UC Davis spokesman Andy Fell told the Sacramento Bee the bear was first reported about 5:45 a.m. Tuesday near a parking lot by a park.

He said the bear climbed up a tree in a grassy area near the Hyatt Place hotel on campus.

Gator crashes couple's picnic date by lake

FL GAINESVILLE — A hungry alligator crashed a picnic date by a Florida lake and gobbled down an entire bowl of guacamole.

Taylor Forte had planned a picnic for her fiancé, Trevor Walters, at Lake Alice before Walters was to leave for the Marines.

Walters told WGFL they were shocked and ran when the animal sprinted onto the beach. First, it ate a block of cheese, then some salami, half a watermelon and a pound of grapes.

Walters said the “worst part” was watching the gator consume a big bowl of guacamole. He said the reptile devoured the bowl as well.

2 sets of twins graduate at the top of their class

MI GRASS LAKE — Four high school students in southeastern Michigan have more in common than graduating with the highest grade point averages in their class.

They each also have a twin. The Jackson Citizen Patriot reported that two sets of twins graduated from Grass Lake High School on Sunday.

Identical twins Kayla and Maria Bolton shared the honor of being valedictorians after earning the same 4.4 GPA. Fraternal twins Connor and Barrett Bagby held the next highest GPAs.

The sets of twins have known each other since elementary school, and they help each other in their studies. They're all headed to the University of Michigan this fall.

Police: Man robbed while sleeping on stoop

NY NEW YORK — Police are looking for a suspect after a man reported being robbed of jewelry and his wallet while he was sleeping on a building's stoop.

The man had reported to authorities that he had fallen asleep around 2 a.m. on May 25 on the stoop in front of the building on Coney Island Avenue in Brooklyn.

He told police that while he was sleeping, someone took a \$2,000 bracelet, a \$1,000 chain, clothing and a wallet with his identification and bank cards from him over the course of an hour.



JAMES QUIGO, THE (VICTORVILLE, CALIF.) DAILY PRESS/AP

Iconic sculpture

Weiming Chen, center, and a group of volunteers line up a tank and “Tank Man” sculpture at Chen's Liberty Sculpture Park in Yermo, Calif., on Sunday. The sculpture, unveiled Monday, commemorates protesters killed during the Tiananmen Square crackdown in Beijing in 1989.

Museum welcomes 6-ton rock from China

TX SAN ANTONIO — A museum in South Texas has welcomed a big boulder.

A crane was used to maneuver the more than 6-ton rock donated to the San Antonio Museum of Art from a sister city in China.

The San Antonio Express-News reported the limestone rock is a gift from Wuxi in honor of San Antonio's Tricentennial.

The donation joins the San Antonio Museum of Art's collection of scholars' rocks and will be installed on campus in November.

Shawn Yuan, assistant curator of Asian art at the museum, said scholars' rocks have long been prized by elite members of Chinese society.

Man who integrated school gets diploma

DE WILMINGTON — An 84-year-old man who was among the first five black students to enroll at a Delaware high school finally has his diploma.

The Delaware News Journal reported Salesianum High School in Wilmington gave a diploma to Fred Smith on Friday.

Smith and four other black students enrolled at Salesianum in 1950, four years before the Brown v. Board of Education case that

THE CENSUS

1K

The number of stitches a 7-year-old girl needed after a dog bit her face. The Riverside County Department of Animal Services said the 2-year-old male Akita lunged and bit the girl at a private animal rescue in Romoland, Calif. The girl was at the kennel with her family, hoping to adopt a dog. KABC-TV reported the child is recovering after undergoing three hours of surgery. Due to the severity of the attack, Animal Services was working to have the dog put down.

dismantled school segregation.

The Army drafted Smith while the four other men graduated. After two years in the Army, Smith went straight to a job so he could support his mother and two younger siblings. He never graduated.

Officer charged with possessing child porn

LA ALEXANDRIA — A Louisiana correctional officer in Louisiana was arrested on 50 counts of possessing child porn and two counts of sexually abusing animals.

News outlets reported Rapides Parish sheriff's correctional Officer Johnny Ulrich Schalk was fired last week.

Sheriff William Earl Hilton said the charges stem from videos and pictures the 52-year-old man viewed online.

Hilton said Schalk had worked for the department for 13 years.

bison on Antelope Island.

The Standard-Examiner reported the 30-year-old Davis County man was struck at the state park where a 600-bison herd roams free.

Parks Lt. Eric Stucki said a medical helicopter flew the hiker to a hospital from Frary Peak Trail. He had few other details about the encounter.

He said bison rarely climb to the high elevation where the man was hurt because their water sources are lower.

Old cemetery headstones damaged by vandals

MO VERONA — Lawrence County authorities are investigating vandalism at a cemetery that damaged or destroyed about 50 headstones, some dating to the 1800s.

The Monet Times reported the sheriff's department said vandals hit the Lee Cemetery near Verona on Friday.

The Lee Cemetery Association is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

The sheriff's office is adding an additional \$1,000 reward.

From wire reports

No tools needed: Goats to eat unwanted plants

MI ANN ARBOR — Goats have been invited to a feast at a popular Ann Arbor park.

The Ann Arbor News reported that 10 goats will start roaming two islands at Gallup Park to eat invasive plants, starting Thursday.

It's being promoted as an efficient way to get rid of weeds and other undesirable vegetation.

The islands and pedestrian bridges will be closed through June 27, although there will be opportunities to see the goats in action on June 10, 19 and 24.

Authorities: Bison seriously hurts hiker

UT ANTELOPE ISLAND — Authorities said a hiker was seriously injured by a

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Q&A

Power duo talk lack of women in late night TV

By LINDSEY BARR
Associated Press

"Late Night," a new comedy from Mindy Kaling, establishes itself as a fantasy from the outset. It's about a veteran late night talk show host who is a woman, after all.

Emma Thompson plays said host, Katherine Newbury, who decides to allow the hire of a very green but very eager newcomer, Molly (Kaling) to her all white and male writing staff. It scored a record acquisition at the Sundance Film Festival this year and opens in select U.S. theaters Friday and nationwide June 14.

The Associated Press spoke to Kaling and Thompson about the film, which explores serious issues like gender bias, "diversity hires" and the grueling demands of late night with enjoyable comedy drawn from real-life stories of difficult TV bosses. Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Why did you choose the setting of late night talk shows?

Kaling: I've always been intrigued by late night TV. I write for scripted half-hour shows which you'd think would be so similar that I would know this world, but it really is its own beast. It's very tied to New York City, it's a very masculine environment and the level of hyper competition in these shows between the different hosts but also between writers on staff is so different than what I'm used to. I loved shining a light on a world that has historically not employed women. It was very easy to research because almost all of my friends have been fired from a late night talk show. There are so many great disgruntled stories of impossible hosts and mean bosses.

And you wrote the part of



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Actress and screenwriter Mindy Kaling, right, wrote the part of a female talk show host in her new film, "Late Night," specifically for British actress Emma Thompson, left.

Katherine specifically for Emma, having never met her.

Kaling: It doesn't happen very often. The only other times it's happened I've always been an elderly archaeologist or geography teacher or someone developing dementia or Alzheimer's or someone whose spouse has died horribly and I've got to deal with it. So interestingly, yeah, this is the first time someone has said I've wrote you something, and not only is it funny but also incredibly smart and irresistible.

Thompson: It's not strange to write with someone in mind. I write with people in mind.

Kaling: But it is a bad idea to write when there is only one person who can play the part. That is the worst thing to do. I didn't even know. You could be in the throes of an acrimonious divorce. You could be an alcoholic. You could have been unable to leave England legally to act for some drug-related reason.

Is it difficult to believe when

someone says that they've written something for you?

Thompson: It doesn't happen very often. The only other times it's happened I've always been an elderly archaeologist or geography teacher or someone developing dementia or Alzheimer's or someone whose spouse has died horribly and I've got to deal with it. So interestingly, yeah, this is the first time someone has said I've wrote you something, and not only is it funny but also incredibly smart and irresistible.

Mindy, you've been both the boss and the newcomer in your career. Did you draw on that while writing?

Kaling: This movie was so enjoyable because I identify so much with both of the charac-

ters. I remember vividly what it's like to be the new person in the room, the only minority, like it was yesterday, even though it was 15 years ago. I also remember distinctly being the star and the showrunner of a show that I've been doing for 117 episodes and I'm impatient and grouchy and I'm paid a little bit too much and everyone is telling me yes all the time and I myself have a temper.

Katherine is not a stock villain who hates other women. It just seems like it's never occurred to her that she might benefit from a diverse staff.

Thompson: It hasn't occurred to her because she's followed the patriarchy mold like the rest of us. You know, she's a normal human being. What choice did

she have? She wasn't brought up in an unusual matriarchy on a small island off of America and then (said), "Hang on a minute, why are there no women in positions of power? This isn't like this where I'm from." She has grown up the way I did seeing everything through men's eyes.

Why do you think there is still that bias against women in late night?

Kaling: I think there's historically been a feeling that late night is based on hard jokes: Set up, punchline, of daily news. And I think there's been a bias that women can't write those kinds of jokes. The truth is there are fewer women who are interested in it because there are almost no women who do it. So now, little by little on shows like Colbert and Jimmy Fallon, they are hiring more women. And that's great but they need to be trained and younger women need to see that these women can succeed in these jobs.

Thompson: And have you noticed on almost all late night talk shows, the band is almost exclusively male.

Kaling: REALLY?

That was going to be a studio movie but ultimately went the independent route with a Sundance premiere and everything. Why did you choose that path?

Kaling: Because Fox2000 gave me the movie back, they didn't want to make it. And now they're not a company. I'm not saying there's a correlation, but that's the truth. It was supposed to be a big, glossy New York City movie, and then the company who was going to make it like that gave it back to me. They lost faith in it. And so it was an indie movie. To make a movie like this in 25 days with \$11 million is extremely hard.

Spike Lee to present Denzel Washington with AFI award

Associated Press

Spike Lee will honor Denzel Washington's career by presenting his friend and collaborator with the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award.

AFI said Tuesday that Lee will present the actor and director with the honor at a gala Thursday at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

Lee has directed Washington in four films, including "Malcolm X" and "Inside Man." He also worked with Washington's son, John David, on the 2019 Oscar best-picture nominee "BlackKkklansman."

It's a role reversal for Washington, who helped present Lee with an honorary Oscar in 2015 and an NAACP Hall of Fame Award in 2003.

Lee joins a star-studded list of presenters including Mahershala Ali, Morgan Freeman, Chadwick Boseman and Julia Roberts.

Washington, 64, joins the ranks of Mel Brooks, Robert De Niro, Meryl Streep and Alfred Hitchcock. Last year's AFI honoree was George Clooney.



AP

Actor and director Denzel Washington will receive the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award on Thursday.

Meek Mill granted hearing in '08 gun, drug conviction

Meek Mill's lawyers will get a chance to argue the rapper's 2008 conviction on gun and drug charges should be overturned. Pennsylvania Superior Court has granted Mill a hearing in his long-running appeal.

Arguments are scheduled for July 16 in Philadelphia.

Mill, whose real name is Robert Rihmeek Williams, has been trying to get his conviction overturned because of questions about the credibility of the arresting officer. He became a symbol for criminal justice reform after a Philadelphia judge sentenced him in 2017 to two to four years in prison for minor probation violations. He was released in April 2018.

Other news

■ The Paris prosecutor's office said that an investigation into a woman's rape and sexual assault accusations against actor Gerard Depardieu has been dropped because of a lack of evidence. A preliminary investigation was opened Aug. 27 after a young woman filed a complaint near the southern city of Aix-en-Provence for rape and sexual aggression. At the time, Depardieu's lawyer, Herve Temime, said the actor "absolutely denies any rape, any sexual assault, any crime" and dismissed

the complaint as "groundless."

■ An explosion on the set of the new James Bond movie Tuesday injured one crew member and damaged a stage at Pinewood Studios outside of London. The film's official Twitter account said the accident came from a "controlled explosion." No one was injured on set but, a crew member outside the stage suffered a minor injury. This is the second production incident on the film. Shooting was set back in May after Daniel Craig hurt his foot while performing a stunt in Jamaica.

■ Tracy Morgan was involved in a minor traffic crash while driving his 2019 Bugatti in midtown Manhattan on Tuesday. Police said the mishap involved Morgan, 50, and his Bugatti, reportedly worth around \$2 million, and a 61-year-old man driving a Honda CR-V. A representative said Morgan bought the vehicle an hour before the accident. In 2014, the former "30 Rock" and "Saturday Night Live" star suffered severe head trauma when a truck slammed into the limo van he was riding in. Comedian Craig T. Nelson, his friend and collaborator, was killed.

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OPINION

D-Day had to succeed. Unity of command helped.

By ARTHUR I. CYR

Special to Stars and Stripes

From ancient times, military professionals rightly regard amphibious invasions as especially challenging. This week we recognize and honor the 75th anniversary of the greatest such operation, the Allies' invasion of France in World War II, on June 6, 1944 — D-Day.

The Normandy invasion combined thorough planning, mobilizing vast materiel, and great imagination. When the vast operation underway was announced, a U.S. newspaper highlighted a front-page drawing of invading soldiers cascading into Europe as a terrified Hitler fled. A year of extremely brutal, almost continuous combat lay ahead, but the end of Nazi Germany was in sight once the beaches were secured.

The leadership of Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was crucial. Ike demonstrated great executive ability in supervising the enormous logistics and brilliant interpersonal skill that welded and held together the most diverse military alliance in history.

Remarkably, he was able to establish overall unity of command. This eluded even the American military alone in the Pacific, where Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur pursued one strategic vision while U.S. Navy admirals implemented a different approach.

Extensive bombing of transport routes and supply depots in France was viewed by Eisenhower as crucial preparation. Such action would bring an estimated minimum of 60,000 civilian casualties, and perhaps far more. For various reasons, many American and British air commanders resisted, arguing for a more limited effort.

Eisenhower was adamant about the absolute need for extensive bombing, arguing that less would put the risky invasion in even graver danger. Free French Gen. Charles de Gaulle agreed and gave unequivocal support. Ike had managed to establish an effective working relationship with the insecure, temperamental French leader.

Simultaneously, the American commander never lost awareness of the terrible human costs of war, borne primarily by the enlisted ranks. He constantly stressed the fundamentally important role of the combat soldier and regularly went to see troops in the field. This dimension is captured especially by classic photographs of his visit with young American paratroopers



U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS/AP

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower gives the order of the day to paratroopers in England prior to their participation in the first assault of the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944.

ers preparing to depart to initiate D-Day.

Finally, Eisenhower had brilliant imagination. During heavy fighting for Sicily in 1943, Gen. George S. Patton Jr. slapped two U.S. soldiers suffering extreme combat stress. Intense controversy resulted. Nazi leaders dismissed the entire matter as propaganda. The German military executed thousands of their own men as routine.

Ike moved Patton to England to reflect in isolation. Meanwhile, a fictitious army emerged around him. Actors were assigned roles, bogus information generated, phony buildings and vehicles constructed. On D-Day and immediately thereafter, crucial German units remained in reserve, partly because Patton's (fictitious) forces had not yet moved.

Both Eisenhower and Patton were gifted leaders, naturally complementary. The first direct contact between American and German forces occurred in early 1943 at Kasserine Pass in Tunisia. Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Corps devastated inexperienced, often terrified U.S. troops and inept commanders. Approximately 2,000 American men were lost; the vast majority were captured. Many simply sur-

rendered when faced by the Germans.

The already controversial Patton was then appointed their commander. Shortly thereafter, those U.S. troops defeated the Afrika Corps at El Guettar. Rommel observed he never saw soldiers more poorly prepared for real battle, or more able to improve quickly, than these Americans.

After the Normandy beaches were secured and the Allied position greatly reinforced, the newly highly mechanized U.S. Third Army was activated, with Patton in command. That force proved spectacularly successful overall in driving German forces from France. In December, during the desperate Battle of the Bulge, the Third Army was crucial in blunting the last great German offensive and relieving the 101st Airborne Division, surrounded in the crossroads town of Bastogne.

Eisenhower was a supremely gifted leader of Americans, and others as well. When he died, President Richard M. Nixon's eulogy compared him to George Washington: "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Arthur I. Cyr is Clausen Distinguished Professor at Carthage College and author of "After the Cold War."

Help is there when vets battling addiction take 1st step

Dr. PAUL LITTLE

Special to Stars and Stripes

Nineteen years ago, my life looked perfect from the outside. I was a physician in the U.S. Air Force. I had just won an award as an outstanding officer. Good job, great family, happy life.

People were shocked to discover that I was addicted to pain pills. What started as a routine hernia repair surgery ended with a full-on addiction to Percocet. I was working a demanding schedule; the pills gave me the relief, calmness and energy I craved.

For veterans, there's a myth that addiction equals weakness, failure or a lack of morals, and for years it's been "treated" with punitive measures. I was severely punished for my addiction — after all, that was the military way at the time — and I was discharged from the Air Force.

Thankfully, I found a new calling.

I've since worked with hundreds of veterans dealing with substance use disorder and addiction through both a Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in West Virginia — one of the states hit hardest by the opioid epidemic — and in private practice. The common thread uniting us all is that we had the courage to come forward, put aside our pride and admit we needed help. Today, I am 19 years sober.

The data on the state of veteran mental health and substance abuse in America is daunting. Studies suggest only half of returning servicemembers who need treatment for their mental health actually seek care, and substance use continues to be a growing concern among both enlisted and retired members of the armed forces.

But there is hope. Today, we know addiction is a disease of the brain, one that can be diagnosed and treated with the

right combination therapies. These include medication-assisted treatment as well as holistic mental, spiritual and physical health programs proven to help patients break from the chains of addiction and live a substance-free life.

Veterans have much better access to care for both addiction and mental health issues like post-traumatic stress disorder, which is often at the root of a substance use disorder. Many VA clinics offer their own substance use treatment programs, and others refer patients to civilian treatment programs to make sure our veterans get the care, compassion and recovery services they need to be productive members of civilian society.

Dr. Paul Little is medical director at Laguna Treatment Hospital, an American Addiction Centers treatment facility in Aliso Viejo, Calif. An Air Force veteran, he has spent more than half of his 20 years of experience in medicine focused on treating addiction.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Sephora closes stores for diversity training

'Inclusion workshops' come after incident with R&B star

By ALEXANDRA OLSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sephora closed its U.S. stores for an hour Wednesday morning to host "inclusion workshops" for its 16,000 employees, just over a month after R&B star SZA said she had security called on her while shopping at a store in California.

The beauty retailer said the training had been in development months before SZA's experience, which undermined the company's efforts to cast itself as a champion

of diversity. Sephora, which apologized to SZA last month, said the incident "does reinforce why belonging is now more important than ever."

In addition to the store closures, the company said it would also close its distribution centers and corporate office for the workshops to discuss what it means to be long in the context of "gender identity, race and ethnicity, age abilities and more." The stores will open to customers following the training.

Sephora provided few details about its

workshops, which were closed to the public. The company said they would be followed by "future training moments" for employees but did not answer questions about what would be taught, who would conduct the workshops and or how they were designed.

The initiative echoed Starbucks' decision to close its stores last year for anti-bias training sessions following an uproar over the arrest of two black men for sitting at a Philadelphia Starbucks without ordering anything. That incident triggered protests and threats of boycotts and eventually prompted the Philadelphia Police Department to announce a new policy on how to

confront people accused of trespassing on private property.

While Starbucks also kept its training private, it released training materials showing that employees were asked to break into small groups to talk about their experience with race. The program was developed with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Reaction was more muted when SZA tweeted on April 30 that a Sephora employee had called security to make sure she wasn't stealing. SZA, who once appeared in an ad for the Fenty makeup line that Sephora carries, identified the employee only as "Sandy Sephora."

Renault delays decision on Fiat Chrysler merger

By ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

PARIS — Renault has delayed a decision on whether to merge with Fiat Chrysler, a deal that could reshape the global auto industry as carmakers race to make electric and autonomous vehicles for the masses.

The deal still looks likely, but it faced new criticism Tuesday from Renault's leading union and questions from its Japanese alliance partner Nissan. The French government is also putting conditions on the deal, including job guarantees and an operational headquarters based in France.

The French carmaker's board was to meet Wednesday to "continue to study with interest" last week's merger proposal from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Renault said in a statement.

A Renault board meeting Tuesday to study the deal was inconclusive. The company didn't explain why, but a French government official said board mem-

bers don't want to rush into a deal and are seeking agreement on all parts of the potential merger.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the conditions outlined by France's finance minister still "need to be met."

France and Italy are painting themselves as winners in the deal, which could save both companies \$5.6 billion a year. But workers worry a merger could lead to job losses, and analysts warn it could bog down in the challenges of managing such a hulking company across multiple countries.

The big loser may end up being Japan's Nissan, whose once-mighty alliance with Renault and Mitsubishi is on the rocks since star CEO Carlos Ghosn's arrest in November.

Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa cast doubt Tuesday on whether his company will be involved in a Renault-Fiat Chrysler merger — and suggested adding Fiat Chrysler to the looser Renault-Nissan-Mit-

subishi alliance instead.

Saikawa said the Renault-Fiat Chrysler deal would "significantly alter" the structure of Nissan's longtime partnership with Renault, and Nissan would analyze its contractual relationships to protect the company's interests.

If Renault's board says "yes" to Fiat Chrysler, that would open the way for a nonbinding memorandum of understanding to start exclusive merger negotiations. The ensuing process — including consultations with unions, the French government, antitrust authorities and other regulators — would take about a year.

A merger would create the world's third-biggest automaker, worth almost \$40 billion and producing some 8.7 million vehicles a year. That's more than General Motors makes, and trails only Volkswagen and Toyota.

If the merged company were to include the Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance, too, it would be the No. 1 car producer in the world.

But Nissan wasn't consulted on the deal and, before Ghosn's arrest, resisted his idea for a full merger with Renault. Ghosn denies accusations of financial wrongdoing.

Renault's board announced Tuesday an internal audit of the alliance subsidiary RNBV found "deficiencies ... in terms of financial transparency and procedures for monitoring expenditure" and recommended a joint legal action with Nissan as a result.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 6)	\$1.1596
Dollar buys (June 6)	€0.8634
British pound (June 6)	\$1.31
China Yuan	€8.066
Japanese yen (June 6)	¥105.00
South Korean won (June 6)	₩150.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dh)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2714
Canada (Dollar)	1.3376
China Yuan	€8.066
Denmark (Krone)	6.6291
Egypt (Pound)	£16.7600
Euro	\$1.1260/0.8881
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8398
Hungary (Forint)	284.78
Israel (Shekel)	3.6043
Japan (Yen)	109.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3040
Philippines (Peso)	51.72
Poland (Zloty)	3.80
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3641
South Korea (Won)	117.81
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9899
Thailand (Baht)	31.36
Turkey (Lira)	5.7066

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-Japanese currency exchange rates, purchasing British pounds in Germany, which cover your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollar-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

June 4, 2019

Dow Jones industrials	512.40
	25,332.18
Nasdaq composite	194.10
	7,527.12
Standard & Poor's 500	58.82
	2,803.27
Russell 2000	38.58
	1,508.56

INTEREST RATES

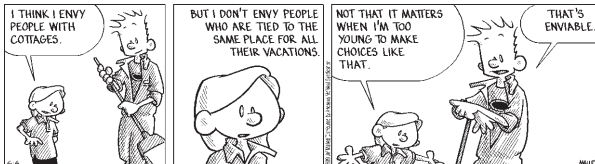
Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.00
3-month bill	2.30
30-year bond	2.60

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

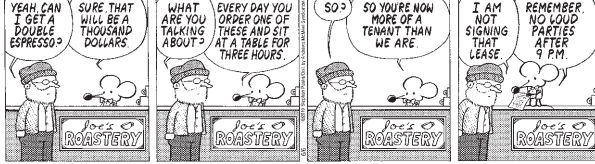
Frazz



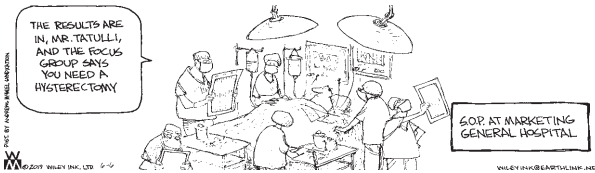
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



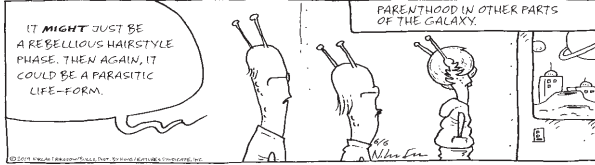
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
18					19			20	21				
				22					23				
24	25	26			27	28	29				30	31	
32					33					34			
35					36	37				38			
								40	41				
42	43				44		45				46	47	48
49					50	51			52				
53					54				55				
56					57				58				

ACROSS

- Satan's purchase
- Chest protector
- Ski lift type
- Old U.S. gas brand
- Piercing tool
- Hindu royal
- Pub potables
- King, in Cannes
- Choir voice
- New
- Pal of Pooh
- Stephen of "Still Crazy"
- Hobbyist's abbr.
- Mineral-hardness scale name
- Tot's train
- Rock's Brian
- Science room
- Klutz
- Folks from Indiana
- Garrison
- Flop
- Ostrich's kin
- Exhibited ennui
- In a way
- "Metamorphoses" poet
- Hosp. hookups
- Carry on
- Ms. Rowlands
- Golf prop

- Like some vaccines
- Gross
- Last letter in London
- Mr. Disney

- Altar vow
- "I'm not impressed"
- Music's Yoko
- Snooker
- Guffaw syllable
- Fanatical
- Rowing need
- Frequently
- Half the weekend
- Chemical suffix
- Groove
- Kansas City's st.
- Quotable Berra
- Opposite of "sans"
- Bubblehead
- O'Hara estate
- Cameo shape
- Fedora fabric
- Victory sign

DOWN

- Line of fashion?
- Capital on a fjord
- Secondhand
- Also-rans
- Clinging crustacean
- Jima
- Radar dot
- Dire
- Hype
- Pot starter
- Laugh-a-minute
- Concerning

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	R	C		W	A	G		G	A	G	A
O	N	O	R		A	B	E		A	L	A	N
P	T	B	A	R	N	U	M		L	U	S	T
S	I	E	N	A		S	C	A	M	P	S	
					I	T	C	H	A	S	I	
P	I	T	A		H	I	T	S		N	B	A
A	M	Y		L	A	N	E	S		U	R	B
R	P	M		A	I	D	E		B	M	O	C
				P	O	I	U	S	S	R		
B	E	A	R	D	S		P	A	S	S	E	
U	L	N	A		P	E	R	A	N	N	U	M
S	M	U	T		U	R	I		D	O	R	M
T	O	M	E		D	E	B		O	B	E	Y

6-6

CRYPTOQUIP

RG QWZVNO TOZXMP FWQ W
KXOG FWOR, VZAWDVX
TXVNVF WVV SYX SZRX. GNI
QYNIVP YWKX AMNFM
DNWSXO!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I IMAGINE A PLACE OF PERFECT BLISS IN A CITY IN YEMEN MIGHT BE NAMED THE GARDEN OF ADEN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals R


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- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

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Thursday, May 8 Innings
 Arizona 5, Washington 1, 8 Innings
 UCLA 7, Minnesota 2
 Oklahoma State 2, Florida 1
 Oklahoma 3, Alabama 2

Friday, May 31
 Oklahoma 6, Arizona 2
 UCLA 6, Oklahoma State 1

Sunday, June 1
 Washington 5, Minnesota 3, Minnesota eliminated
 Alabama 15, Florida 3, Florida eliminated
 Washington 1, Oklahoma State 0, Oklahoma State eliminated
 Alabama 2, Arizona 0, Arizona eliminated

Sunday, June 2
 UCLA 3, Washington 0, 10 Innings, Washington eliminated
 Alabama 1, Oklahoma 0, 8 Innings, Alabama eliminated

Championship Series (Best-of-three)
 UCLA 16, Oklahoma 3
 UCLA 5, Oklahoma 4, UCLA wins series 2-0

Pro soccer

MLS

Philadelphia	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	4	6	2	27	18	18
Atlanta	4	6	2	27	18	18
New York	4	5	3	24	16	16
Portland	4	5	3	24	16	16
New York City FC	4	7	2	20	15	15
Toronto FC	5	6	3	18	24	23
Orlando City	4	6	6	18	24	23
Chicago	4	6	6	18	24	23
San Jose	4	6	6	18	24	23
New England	4	8	4	16	17	38
Cincinnati	4	8	4	16	17	38

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Los Angeles	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LA Galaxy	9	6	1	28	29	19
Portland	4	6	6	16	19	19
Houston	7	3	3	24	21	20
FC Dallas	6	6	3	21	20	24
Seattle Sounders	6	6	3	21	20	24
Real Salt Lake	6	8	1	19	21	27
San Jose	4	6	6	18	24	23
Vancouver	4	6	6	18	24	23
Portland Timbers	4	7	2	14	26	25
Colorado	3	9	3	12	24	34

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday, May 31
 Toronto FC 1, Vancouver 1, Tie
Saturday, June 1
 Orlando City 3, Montreal 0
 Atlanta 2, Chicago 0
 New York City FC 2, Columbus 2, tie
 Seattle 2, Seattle 1
 San Jose 1, D.C. United 1, tie
 Colorado 3, Cincinnati 1
Sunday, June 2
 Philadelphia 2, Minnesota United 1
 New England 2, LA Galaxy 1
 Los Angeles FC 3, Portland 2

Wednesday's game
 Seattle at Montreal

Thursday's game
 Cincinnati at New York City FC

Friday's game
 Sporting Kansas City at Toronto FC

Saturday's games
 FC Dallas at San Jose
 New York at Philadelphia
 Minnesota United at Colorado

NWSL

Washington	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	4	1	2	14	16	10
Utah	3	2	1	10	12	9
New York	3	2	1	10	12	9
North Carolina	3	2	1	10	12	9
Chicago	3	2	1	10	12	9
Houston	3	2	1	10	12	9
Reign FC	3	2	1	10	7	8
San Diego	3	2	1	10	7	8
Orlando	0	7	1	1	2	28

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday, June 1
 Washington 2, Utah 1
 North Carolina 3, Orlando 0

Sunday, June 2
 Seattle 1, Houston 1
 Portland 2, Chicago 2

Saturday, June 15
 Portland at North Carolina
 FC Dallas at Houston
 Sky Blue FC at Utah
 Washington at Reign FC

College baseball

Collegiate Baseball poll

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Collegiate Baseball poll, with records through June 3, has points and last week's ranking. Voting is done by coaches, sports writers and sports information directors:

	Record	Pts	Pwr
1. UCLA	51-9	496	1
2. Vanderbilt	52-10	463	2
3. Stanford	47-12	491	3
4. Arkansas	44-17	487	4
5. Mississippi State	40-13	485	5
6. Louisville	47-16	482	7
7. Oklahoma State	39-19	470	8
8. East Carolina	46-16	476	10
9. Texas Tech	42-17	473	11
10. North Carolina	45-17	470	14
11. LSU	40-24	467	19
12. Florida State	39-21	463	20
13. Mississippi	40-25	459	29
14. Auburn	36-25	455	30
15. Duke	42-24	452	—
16. Michigan	44-21	450	—
17. Georgia	46-17	447	6
18. UC Santa Barbara	45-11	444	8
19. Georgia Tech	43-19	441	11
20. Oregon State	36-20	439	12
21. N.C. State	42-19	436	15
22. Central Michigan	47-14	433	16
23. Baylor	35-19	430	17
24. Miami	41-20	427	18
25. Fresno State	40-16	426	23
26. Texas A&M	39-21	425	24
27. West Virginia	38-22	421	25
28. Southern Miss.	42-19	418	26
29. Arizona State	38-19	415	27
30. Creighton	41-13	412	27

NCAA Tournament

Super regions

Best-of-three, x-of-necessary

Louisville vs. East Carolina
 Friday: Louisville (47-10) vs. East Carolina (47-16)
Saturday: Louisville vs. East Carolina
Sunday: Louisville vs. East Carolina

At Nashville, Tenn.
Saturday: Vanderbilt (52-10) vs. Duke (34-25)
Sunday: Vanderbilt vs. Duke
Saturday: Vanderbilt vs. Duke
At Lubbock, Texas
Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma State
 Friday: Texas Tech (42-17) vs. Oklahoma State (39-19)
Saturday: Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma State
Sunday: Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma State

At Los Angeles
UCLA vs. Michigan
 Friday: UCLA (51-9) vs. Michigan (44-14)
Saturday: UCLA vs. Michigan
Sunday: UCLA vs. Michigan

At Chapel Hill, N.C.
North Carolina vs. Auburn
 Saturday: North Carolina (45-17) vs. Auburn (40-24)
Sunday: North Carolina vs. Auburn
Saturday: North Carolina vs. Auburn

At Starkville, Miss.
Mississippi State vs. Stanford
 Saturday: Mississippi State (40-23) vs. Stanford (45-12)
Sunday: Mississippi State vs. Stanford
Saturday: Mississippi State vs. Stanford

At Fayetteville, Ark.
Arkansas vs. Mississippi
 Saturday: Arkansas (44-17) vs. Mississippi (40-24)
Sunday: Arkansas vs. Mississippi
Saturday: Arkansas vs. Mississippi

At Baton Rouge, La.
LSU vs. Florida State
 Saturday: LSU (40-24) vs. Florida State (39-21)
Sunday: LSU vs. Florida State
Saturday: LSU vs. Florida State

Boxing

Fight schedule

June 8
 At Madison Square Garden, New York, Genaro Lovatino vs. Steve Roldan, super middleweights; Charles Conwell vs. Tony Pennington, 10, for the WBA super middleweight title; USA Super welterweight; Ali Akhmedov vs. Marcus McDaniel, 10, super middleweight.

At Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, Nev., Oscar Valdez vs. Christopher Sanchez, 12, for Valdez's WBO featherweight title; Michael Seel vs. Lyon Woodstock, 12, for the vacant Commonwealth super welterweight title; Michael Barrett vs. Lyon Woodstock, 12, for the vacant Commonwealth super welterweight title.

At MGM Grand, Las Vegas, Tyson Fury vs. Tom Schwarz, 12, for Fury's WBO heavyweight title.

June 21
 At Winna Vegas Casino & Resort, Sloan, Iowa, Sebastian Fundora vs. Hector Mariz Upeza, 10, super welterweights.

June 22
 At Winna Vegas Casino & Resort, Sloan, Iowa, Sebastian Fundora vs. Hector Upeza, 10, super welterweights.

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	2	1	.667	1/2
Indiana	2	1	.667	1/2
Chicago	1	1	.500	1
Washington	1	1	.500	1
Atlanta	1	2	.333	1 1/2
New York	0	3	.000	2 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	3	1	.750	—
Los Angeles	2	1	.667	1/2
Seattle	2	1	.667	1/2
Phoenix	1	1	.500	1
Las Vegas	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Dallas	0	2	.000	2 1/2

Tuesday's games
 Los Angeles 78, New York 73
 Seattle 84, Minnesota 77

Wednesday's games
 Chicago at Washington
 Los Angeles at Connecticut
 Las Vegas at Atlanta
 Phoenix at Minnesota

Friday's games
 Dallas at Indiana
 Washington at New York

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Reinstated INF Chris Davis from the 10-day IL.
BOSTON RED SOX — Sent RHP Brian Johnson to Pawtucket (IL) for a rehab assignment.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Sent OF Jon Jay to Birmingham (SL) for a rehab assignment.
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Placed RHP Jeff Rodriguez on the 10-day IL. Reinstated OF Tyler Naquin from the 10-day IL.
SAN ANTONIO ROLARS — Placed 3B Hunter Dozier on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 31. Recalled 3B Kelvin Gutierrez from Omaha (PCL).
SEATTLE MARINERS — Signed RHP Ricardo Volquez to a minor league contract.
TEXAS RANGERS — Placed RHP Kyle Dowdy on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 31. Recalled RHP Martin from Nashville (PCL).
TEXAS RANGERS — Reinstated LHP Tim Lincecum from the 10-day IL.
National League
CINCINNATI REDS — Optioned RHP Stefan Crichton to Reno (PCL). Reinstated OF David Peralta from the 10-day IL.
CHICAGO CUBS — Activated RHP Pedro Strop from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Dillon Maples to Iowa (PCL).
ST. LOUIS BRUINS — Sent Alex Blandino to Louisville (IL) for a rehab assignment. Signed RHP Brad Miller to the 10-day IL.
NEW YORK METS — Optioned RHP Tyronn Hester to the 10-day IL. Reinstated INF/OF Jeff McNeil from the 10-day IL.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Optioned OF Nick Williams and LHP Devin LeMahieu to Lehigh Valley (IL). Recalled LHP Austin Davis from Lehigh Valley.
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Sent SS Fernando Tatis Jr. to Amarillo (TL) for a rehab assignment.

FOOTBALL

National Football League
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed DT Gerald McCoy to a one-year contract.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed RB Rico Rodriguez to a contract extension.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Released DT Asante Severian-Jenkins. Signed DL Chase Utah to a one-year contract.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Named Marc Crawford assistant coach.
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Named Dan Lambert assistant coach.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Named Kevin Warren Commissioner, effective Sept. 16.
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE — Named BJ Ivey men's director of basketball operations.

HIGH POINT

Named Chelsea Bancroft women's basketball coach.

OUTRIGGERS

Named Steve Hays men's assistant basketball coach.

AP spotlight

June 6
 1919 — Man o' War wins his first race, a 5-furlong contest over a straightaway at Belmont Park. The 3-to-5 favorite wins by six lengths, covering the distance in 1:59.4.

1924 — Cyril Walker captures the U.S. Open with a three-stroke victory over Bobby Locke.

1936 — Granville, ridden by James Smith, wins the Belmont Stakes by a neck over Mr. Bones. Bold Venture, the Kentucky favorite, is scratched because he does not run in the race.

1946 — The National Basketball Association is founded at the Commodore Hotel in New York.

1981 — "The Contender," ridden by George Martin, wins the Belmont Stakes, spoiling Pleasant Colony's Triple Crown bid.



ALONZO ADAMS/AP

UCLA tops Oklahoma for 13th national title

By CLIFF BRUNT
 Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — UCLA is back on top.

Kinsley Washington's RBI single in the bottom of the seventh inning lifted the Bruins past Oklahoma 5-4 on Tuesday night, and UCLA won the championship series 2-0.

It is the Bruins' 13th national title, 12th NCAA title and first championship since 2010.

"The history is as old as dirt," said UCLA coach Kelly Inouye-Perez, who has been with the program in some capacity for three decades. "I'm so proud to be a part of it, player, assistant, head coach. This is about the here and now. This is about UCLA softball in 2019. This team got on a mission."

Rachel Garcia was named the Most Outstanding Player of the World Series. She threw 179 pitches and hit a walk-off homer in the semifinal win over Washington on Sunday, then got the victory in Game 1 against Oklahoma on Monday. She gave up four runs and eight hits to earn the win in the clincher on Tuesday.

Brianna Tautalafua had three hits, and Washington and Aaliyah Jordan each had two for UCLA (56-6).

The Bruins rolled past the Sooners 16-3 in Game 1 on Monday and tied the record for most runs scored in a World Series game.

Oklahoma provided much more resistance in Game 2.

"Yesterday was kind of a game where you just kind of let it go, it got to let it go," Oklahoma's Sydney Romero said. "I feel like we came out today, we bounced back, we gave it our all. I think that's all you could ever ask for. This team fought."

Shay Knighten hit a solo home run with two outs in the top of the seventh to tie the score in her final collegiate at bat.

Garcia laughed after Knighten's homer.

"It's just a little inside joke between all of us," Garcia said. "That was just like our thing in the entire week, was that every run I gave up, I looked at my teammates and said, 'We're going to be OK, we'll punch back.'"

The Sooners (57-6) were trying to win their third title in four years, but they ran into Garcia, the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year.

"We played an unbelievable, outstanding team," Oklahoma coach Patty Gasso said. "They are solid top to bottom in their lineup. They've got a phenomenal pitcher on the mound. They're very well-coached. It was tough."

UCLA's Bubba Nickles and Brianna Perez hit solo homers on Gisselle "G" Juarez's first four pitches. The Bruins loaded the bases after that, but Juarez escaped with just a 2-0 deficit.

"For me, it was just about fighting back, giving us a shot to get back in there," Juarez said. "They kept telling me, 'We got you. Like we're on it. We're going to get it.'"

Jordan's solo shot in the third made it 3-1, but the Bruins left the bases loaded again.

In the fourth, Oklahoma's Nicole Mendes singled and later scored on a single by Falepolla Aivala. Lynsye Elam's double scored pinch runner Raegen Rogers to tie the score. With runners on second and third with one out, Garcia intentionally walked Romero to load the bases. Caleigh Clifton struck out, then Jocelyn Aldo grounded out to end the threat.

Tautalafua's solo homer in the fifth put UCLA up 4-3. After Knighten's homer tied it, pinch runner Jacqui Prober scored the game-winner on Washington's hit.

"Whatever it took, if it was a home run, a punt, I didn't really care what it was," Washington said. "Just anything to get it done."

NBA FINALS/STANLEY CUP FINAL

Raptors' Leonard avoids distraction

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Toronto star Kawhi Leonard has more than a few things on his mind these days.

He'll be a free agent in a few weeks and will decide where he wants to play next season. He's apparently headed to federal court to solve a disagreement with Nike. He's clearly dealing with something that isn't right in his lower body, though he and the team continue to insist that he's fine.

And, oh, there's the NBA Finals.

Game 3 of a tied series, Leonard and the Toronto Raptors taking on the two-time defending champion Golden State Warriors, the biggest game yet this season, happened Wednesday night.

All that would overload some people. Leonard, however, isn't like most people. He's unfazed.

"I think it just comes naturally," Leonard said. "All NBA players, there's so much distractions from you playing in high school to college to now becoming a pro, it's probably just pretty much second-nature at this point."

Leonard is famously, almost mythically, quiet. He tends to give short answers during news conferences. He's not a social-media guy. So it was an odd look on Monday when he — his attorneys, anyway — filed a federal lawsuit in Southern California against Nike over the rights to his distinctive "klaw" logo, one Leonard says he drew himself in either 2011 or 2012.

He rarely makes news. To make news like that, during an off day for the NBA Finals, with the series shifting to California, was eye-raising.

"It happened a long time ago," Leonard said of the disagreement between he and Nike — and the lawsuit shows that the battle over the logo has indeed gone on for some time, then ramped up to get to this point. "You guys are just finding out. It's not a big worry of mine. ... I've known about it."



Ben Margot/AP

The Toronto Raptors' Kawhi Leonard will be a free agent on June 30. Will he return to Toronto or take his talents elsewhere?

NBA scoreboard

Finals

(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)
Toronto 1, Golden State 1
Toronto 116, Golden State 109
Golden State 109, Toronto 104
Wednesday at Golden State
Friday: at Golden State. **AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. Saturday CET; 10 a.m. Saturday JKT.**
Monday: at Toronto. **AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. Tuesday CET; 10 a.m. Tuesday JKT.**
x-Thursday, June 13: at Golden State. **AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. Friday CET; 10 a.m. Friday JKT.**
x-Sunday, June 16: at Toronto. **AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Monday CET; 9 a.m. Monday JKT.**

In other words, he's played through that particular portion of off-court drama throughout these playoffs.

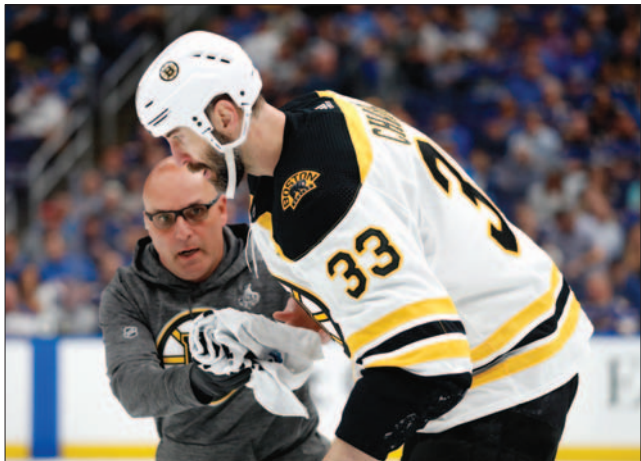
Obviously, he's handled it just fine.

The Raptors are here largely because of Leonard. Even though six bad minutes that became an 18-0 Golden State run to start the second half of Game 2 — "the quarter from hell," Raptors coach Nick Nurse called it — ultimately cost Toronto its chance at a 2-0 series lead and retaining home-court advantage, there's still no obvious sense of uneasiness from the Eastern Conference champions.

"It's going to be even harder on the road," Raptors guard Fred VanVleet said. "But we're capable and we know what we bring to the table."

The Raptors have already rallied from 2-1 series deficits twice in these playoffs — against Philadelphia in the second round and against Milwaukee in the East finals. No team in the current 16-team postseason format, which the NBA went to in 1984, has overcome three of those in the same season.

Learning to deal with noise from the outside world is a skill that the Raptors have proudly gotten fairly adept at this season — amid the constant din surrounding the trade that brought Leonard to Toronto and whether the team could possibly find a way to entice him to sign and stick around past this season.



Jeff Roberson/AP

Boston Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara is helped off the ice after getting hit in the face with the puck during the second period of Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Final on Monday in St. Louis.

With Chara hurt, Bruins need a hand on defense

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

BEDFORD, Mass. — The Boston Bruins reached the Stanley Cup Final despite a run of regular-season injuries that prevented anyone on the roster from playing all 82 games.

Now comes the real test.

The Bruins are preparing for Game 5 against the St. Louis Blues without captain and No. 1 defenseman Zdeno Chara, who did not return after he was hit in the face by a deflected puck on Monday night. The St. Louis Blues won 4-2 to even the series at two games apiece. Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy offered no update on Chara's condition after arriving in Boston on Tuesday except to say the 2009 Norris Trophy winner was on his way to see a doctor. The fact that Chara returned for the third period wearing a full face shield — and never got back on the ice — suggests it is more than the lost tooth or busted lip that usually only keeps a hockey player out long enough to get it stitched up. "Right now, I've got nothing," Cassidy said. "But we don't play for two more days."

Although the 42-year-old Chara is the team's elder statesman and emotional leader, Cassidy said he is less worried about Chara's leadership than his 6-foot-9 presence on the ice.

"Taking great players out of the lineup, that's the part that hurts the most," Cassidy said. "I'm not worried about our mentality."

The Bruins have made it

NHL scoreboard

Stanley Cup Final

(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)
Boston 2, St. Louis 2
Boston 4, St. Louis 2
St. Louis 3, Boston 2, OT
Boston 7, St. Louis 2
St. Louis 4, Boston 2
Thursday: at Boston. **AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Friday CET; 9 a.m. Friday JKT.**
Sunday, June 9: at St. Louis. **AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Monday CET; 9 a.m. Monday JKT.**
x-Wednesday, June 12: at Boston. **AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Thursday CET; 9 a.m. Thursday JKT.**

through the playoffs without defenseman Kevan Miller and also lost Matt Grzelek when he took an elbow to the head in Game 2 and needed to be helped off the ice. John Moore filled in for him in the third game, which the Bruins won.

But they were down to five men on the blue line again Monday night when Chara took a deflected shot from Brayden Schenn off the right side of the face. He crumpled to the ice, face-first, and then skated off, with blood dripping from his mouth. He returned at the start of the third wearing the shield but never went back in the game.

"Very uncomfortable, was advised not to return to play," Cassidy said after the game. "Had some stitches, probably some dental work in the near future. He wanted to come out on the bench and be with his teammates."

His teammates knew how difficult it was for him to just sit there.

"He's our leader, and the biggest part of our leadership," forward David Pastrnak said. "Anything that comes out of his mouth ... everybody is listening to him."

Blues coach Craig Berube said he had a broken jaw when he was a player and was out six weeks. But if Chara has the same injury and misses the rest of the series, it won't change the Blues' approach.

"Nothing from our standpoint," he said.

A six-time All-Star and the perennial team leader in minutes played, Chara played a career-low (not counting lockout years) 62 games this season because of an unspecified injury that kept him out six weeks in November and December.

Although it's too early to rule him out for Game 5 — or perhaps longer — Cassidy said the most likely replacements would be Steven Kampfer or rookies Urho Vaakanainen, Jeremy Lauzon, and Jakub Zboril. Only Kampfer, with two games of playoff experience, has appeared in a postseason game.

"If both guys (Chara and Grzelek) are out, it's not an easy decision," Cassidy said. "It's not one I want to make, but you have to do what you have to do."

But don't rule them out just yet.

"Both of those players, they're warriors," defenseman Charlie McAvoy said. "They'll do whatever it takes to play."

SPORTS BRIEFS/MLB DRAFT

Briefly

Tacitus favored in Belmont; Preakness winner 2nd choice

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Winning the Preakness wasn't enough to make War of Will the Belmont Stakes favorite.

In fact, being the only colt to run in all three Triple Crown races really didn't earn him the respect one would expect.

Well-rested Tacitus was made the slight favorite over the hard-working War of Will in a Belmont Stakes that wraps up a whacky Triple Crown.

Tacitus and War of Will got the outside No. 10 and 9 post positions, respectively, on Tuesday in the draw at Citi Field, but those should not be a problem in the 1½-mile race on Saturday at Belmont Park.

Tacitus was made the 9-5 morning-line favorite for trainer Bill Mott and jockey Jose Ortiz. War of Will is the 2-1 second choice for trainer Mark Casse and jockey Tyler Gaffalione.

"I had read in the last couple of days that he wasn't going to be," Casse said of not being the favorite. "There's a few things against him. Tacitus has the home-field advantage. He's the only guy to play in all three. I'm sure it has to take some toll on him."

Casse believes War of Will has his best ahead of him, saying he has looked good.

The only thing that threatened him on Tuesday was a couple of loose horses on the track during a morning gallop, but War of Will didn't seem to notice.

Tacitus has not raced since being elevated into third place in the Derby so he is going to be a lot fresher than War of Will. The colt also likes racing in New York. He won the Wood Memorial at Aqueduct in prep for the Kentucky Derby and he is the son of Tapit, who has sired three of the last five Belmont winners.

"I'm not worried about it at this moment," Mott said of the distance. "I guess we've got to see it to believe it. It's like the Derby, a test by fire. You really only know when it's over if they'll do it or not. I feel quite positive about it."

Thus far this Triple Crown has

been memorable for all the wrong reasons.

A year after Justify electrified the racing world by capturing the Triple Crown, thoroughbred's biggest event for 3-year-olds ended in chaos after Maximum Security was disqualified after finishing first in the Derby. Country House was placed first.

Within days, the owners of Maximum Security and Country House said they would be skipping the Preakness, meaning there would be no Triple Crown.

War of Will was impressive in winning the Preakness but when a rival colt threw its rider at the start and ran around the track during the race.

Now comes the Belmont and hopefully it goes smoothly.

Joevia drew the No. 1 post position. Jose Lezcano is the jockey on the 30-1 choice.

The rest of the field in post-position order with horse, jockey and odds is:

Everfast, Luis Saez, 12; Master Fencer, Julien Leparoux, 8; Tax, Irad Ortiz, 15; Bourbon War, Mike Smith, 12; Spinoff, Javier Castellano, 15; Sir Winston, Joel Rosario, 12; Intrepid Heart, John Velazquez, 10; War of Will and Tacitus.

"I don't think there was a bad post position," said Casse, who had War of Will get the No. 1 post in the first two legs of the Triple Crown. "I like our post position. It's the first time we've got a decent post. It allows us to do a little bit of deciding. If nobody wants the lead, he'll be on the lead. If a couple of horses inside take off, he'll tuck in. I love the post position."

Phillies OF McCutchen has torn ACL

SAN DIEGO — Andrew McCutchen tore his ACL in a run-down and will miss the rest of the season, causing the NL East-leading Philadelphia Phillies to again reshuffle their outfield.

McCutchen hurt his left knee during Monday night's game against San Diego and an MRI revealed the injury.

"It's not the news I wanted to hear," McCutchen said Tuesday. "He's a weapon for us because he can play center field and left field, is a very aggressive baserunner and through the entire season he has unquestionably been one of our better players. So it is a loss," manager Gabe Kapler said.

The 32-year-old McCutchen was hitting .256 with 10 home runs, 29 RBIs and an NL-high 43 walks. The 2013 NL MVP was in the first season of a \$50 million, three-year contract.

The injury came a week after Phillies outfielder Odubell Herrera was put on administrative leave by Major League Baseball, a day after his arrest in a domestic violence case.

All matches rained out at French Open

PARIS — Rain washed out the entire schedule at the French Open on Wednesday, the second since 2000 that a full day of play at the tournament was lost to showers.

Two men's quarterfinals and two women's quarterfinals were postponed until Thursday, when the forecast calls for clouds but no drizzle.

Roland Garros is the only Grand Slam site without a covered court; a retractable roof is expected to be added to the main stadium before next year's tournament.

On Wednesday, defending champion Simona Halep of Romania was scheduled to face 17-year-old Amanda Anisimova of the U.S. on Court Philippe Chatrier, and No. 8 Ash Barty of Australia was supposed to meet No. 14 Madison Keys of the U.S. on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Those matches were to be followed by the two remaining men's quarterfinals: No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia, who is attempting to win a fourth consecutive Grand Slam title, against No. 5 Alexander Zverev of Germany, and No. 4 Dominic Thiem of Austria vs. No. 10 Karen Khachanov of Russia.



PHIL HOFFMANN/US Navy

Navy's Noah Song was drafted with the final pick of the fourth round.

Song taken 137th, Navy's highest ever

Ava Wallace
The Washington Post

Navy senior pitcher Noah Song made a lot of history this season in Annapolis, Md. The 6-foot-4 right-hander from Claremont, Calif., set six program records, including for most career wins (32) and strikeouts (428), led the nation with 161 strikeouts this season and became the Naval Academy's first player to be named first-team All-American by Collegiate Baseball.

On Tuesday, Song added another highlight to his already sterling resume: The Boston Red Sox drafted him No. 137 overall, the final selection of the fourth round, making Song the highest first-year MLB Draft selection in the Naval Academy's history — by a long shot.

The previous highest pick out of Navy was Stephen Moore, whom the Atlanta Braves selected with the 300th overall pick in 2015.

"What [Song] has done here is unique," Navy coach Paul Kostopoulos said Monday. "He's done some really incredible things. He's changing the trajectory for what a Navy baseball player can be."

Navy has had nine first-year

player draft selections in program history, the last of which was Luke Gillingham, selected in the 37th round in 2016.

Song finished the year with an 11-1 record, a 1.44 ERA and is a finalist for the Golden Spikes award, given annually to the best amateur player in the country.

Song, who was at home in California when the call informing him he'd been selected came in, graduated last week and is somewhat uncertain about when his career in professional baseball could begin.

There is a long-time policy in place that allows service academy graduates to petition for early release from active duty and serve as reservists, which provides an easier path for pursuing a professional sports career, but those policies can change. Last month, President Donald Trump said he favored allowing service academy athletes to postpone their military obligations until after their sports careers are over.

Right now, all Song knows is that he is planning to report to Pensacola, Fla., on Nov. 1 to start training as a Naval flight officer. After two years, Song may petition to enter the reserves.

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X
EXCHANGE

NEXCUM

MLB



TONY DEJAN/AP

The Indians' Francisco Lindor salutes after hitting a two-run home run off Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Devin Smeltzer during the fifth inning of Tuesday's game in Cleveland.

Lindor's 2 homers lift Indians

By STEVE HERRICK
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Indians manager Terry Francona doesn't need any reminders about how well the Minnesota Twins have played this season. The numbers are in front of him every day.

Francona's approach is for the Indians to try to win each game, and that is just what they did against the team with the best record in the majors.

Francisco Lindor hit two of Cleveland's four home runs Tuesday and the Indians defeated the Twins 5-2.

Lindor hit a solo home run in the third and broke a 1-1 tie with a two-run homer in the fifth. Roberto Perez and Jake Bauers added back-to-back homers in the seventh.

The Indians have struggled offensively, but at least for one night out-hit the Twins

6-5. Minnesota holds a 10½-game lead over Cleveland in AL Central and leads the AL in runs, homers and batting average.

"I know we're far from first place right now," Lindor said. "It's inevitable to see how many games out we are, but it doesn't matter. We've still got a long way to go."

Shane Bieber (5-2) gave up solo homers to Marwin Gonzalez in the second and Eddie Rosario in the sixth. He allowed two runs and struck out seven in seven-plus innings.

Bieber was pulled after Byron Buxton reached on Lindor's fielding error to start the eighth. Oliver Perez struck out Max Kepler, Jorge Polanco and Nelson Cruz. Brad Hand hit Mitch Garver with one out in the ninth, but got Gonzalez to bounce into a game-ending double play. Hand picked up his 17th save in 17 opportunities.

Rookie left-hander Devin Smeltzer (0-

1) gave up all four homers in his second major league start.

Smeltzer allowed five runs in 6½ innings.

"The hits, I'm not worried about," he said. "I know they left the yard, but I got behind in the count. That's why I left them over the plate and why they got me."

Lindor, who missed the first three weeks because of calf and ankle injuries, doubled in the seventh and walked in the first.

"He needed to get some at-bats and everything, but now he's starting to look like Frankie," Francona said.

Rosario moved into a tie for the AL lead with his 18th home run. Jorge Polanco, who ranks second in the league in batting, was 1-for-3 for a .336 average. Cruz played for the first time since May 12 when he strained his left wrist, and was 0-for-4 with three strikeouts.

MLB roundup

Nationals' Strasburg earns 100th career victory

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Stephen Strasburg didn't turn in a vintage performance. He still did enough — with plenty of help from the Washington Nationals' offense — to reach a career milestone.

Strasburg earned his 100th victory, Anthony Rendon homered and drove in five runs and Washington rallied past the Chicago White Sox 9-5 for its eighth victory in 10 games.

Strasburg (6-3) gave up four runs in a 39-pitch first inning and spotted Chicago a 5-0 lead. But he hung around long enough to complete five innings and become the first National to reach the 100-win plateau since the franchise moved from Montreal.

"I definitely got punched in the face in the first," Strasburg said. "There's only one thing you can do and I think that's what we preach as an organization (and) that's never give up and keep battling."

Strasburg threw 105 pitches in his second-shortest stint of the season. But the White Sox couldn't manage anything else after Yoan Moncada homered in the second.

"We had a couple of opportunities in which he left us stranded out there," White Sox manager Rick Renteria said. "He worked through it. He's been around. He was able to navigate and did a nice job of keeping us from doing a whole lot of damage."

Rendon did his part to spark Washington's comeback. The third baseman belted a two-run double in the third, then struck a three-run homer in the fifth to chase former teammate Reynaldo Lopez (3-6) and give the Nationals a 6-5 lead.

Reliever Josh Osich surrendered back-to-back doubles before Victor Robles belted a two-run homer to make it 9-5. Washington's six runs in the fifth were its most in any inning this season.

Sean Doolittle recorded the



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg, left, speaks on the mound with catcher Yan Gomes, center, and pitching coach Paul Menhart during the first inning of Thursday's game against the Chicago White Sox in Washington. Chicago scored four runs against Strasburg in the first.

final two outs for his 13th save in 15 opportunities.

Lopez, who was acquired from Washington in December 2016 and was facing the Nationals for the first time, is 0-2 with a 12.83 ERA in his last three starts.

"He's just not being able to command right now as well as we would like him to," Renteria said.

Strasburg struck out six as he improved to 100-55. The right-hander earned a victory while allowing more than four runs for the first time in his career.

"I think it's a great personal accomplishment," Strasburg said. "Wins and losses, as much as you like having them next to

your name, that's a team thing. It's just great that this was such a big team win and they were able to pick me up for that 100th."

Dodgers 9, Diamondbacks 0: Hyun-Jin Ryu (9-1) allowed three hits in seven scoreless innings. Cody Bellinger hit a two-run triple after a rare day off and visiting Los Angeles stretched its winning streak to seven games with a rout of Arizona.

Ryu needed 25 pitches to get through the first inning thanks to shaky defense behind him, but dominated after that to win his seventh straight start.

Bellinger had a two-run triple in his first at-bat against Taylor

Clarke (1-2) following his first day off since May 3. He went 1-for-4, dropping his big league-losing record to .374.

Astros 11, Mariners 5: Alex Bregman had two hits and three RBIs, and seven other teammates drove in at least one run as visiting Houston beat Seattle for its fifth straight win.

The Astros have won 9 of 11 and are 5-0 on their road trip.

Giants 9, Mets 3 (10): Bruce Bochy joined John McGraw as the only franchise managers to win 1,000 regular-season games when visiting San Francisco beat New York behind Stephen Vogt's tiebreaking, two-run double in

the 10th inning.

Blue Jays 4, Yankees 3: Freddy Galvis hit a two-run home run, Randal Grichuk added a solo shot and host Toronto held off New York to end a season-worst six-game slide.

Tigers 9, Rays 6: Miguel Cabrera had a grand slam among his three hits as Detroit snapped a 10-game home losing streak with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Braves 12, Pirates 5: Austin Riley and Josh Donaldson hit three-run home runs in consecutive innings, and visiting Atlanta rallied past Pittsburgh.

Marlins 16, Brewers 0: Garrett Cooper had two hits and scored twice during visiting Miami's franchise-record, 11-run fifth inning in a rout of Milwaukee.

Cubs 6, Rockies 3: Kyle Schwarber and Javier Baez homered, Kyle Hendricks was solid through seven innings and host Chicago ended Colorado's season-high eight-game winning streak.

Red Sox 8, Royals 3: Eduardo Nunez belted a pinch-hit, three-run homer to break open a close game in the eighth inning, and visiting Boston went on to beat Kansas City.

Orioles 12, Rangers 11: Pedro Severino hit a career-high three home runs and thwarted host Texas' ninth-inning rally with a wide defensive play, lifting Baltimore.

Reds 4, Cardinals 1: Luis Castillo (6-1) pitched one run ball over six innings, Yasiel Puig homered and visiting Cincinnati beat St. Louis following a rain delay of 1 hour, 20 minutes.

Athletics 4, Angels 2: Ramon Laureano had two hits, including a home run, Frankie Montas (7-2) threw six solid innings and visiting Oakland snapped a five-game losing streak by beating Los Angeles.

Phillies 9, Padres 6: Jay Bruce hit a grand slam and a two-run homer, and visiting Philadelphia beat San Diego to snap a five-game skid.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Five players to watch

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

The Women's World Cup kicks off Friday in Paris. Twenty-four teams will traverse France for the next month in pursuit of soccer's most prestigious trophy. Here are five players to watch during the tournament:

Alex Morgan, United States: Morgan was named the U.S. national team's Player of the Year after she closed out 2018 with 18 goals in 19 games. She had seven goals during the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying tournament alone.

Morgan is a proven scorer. She also earned Player of the Year honors in 2012 when she had 28 goals and 21 assists, and helped the national team win an Olympic gold medal. Mia Hamm is the only other player to have 20-plus goals and assists during a single season.

The 29-year-old forward, who will have a birthday during the tournament in France, is playing in her third World Cup. She was the youngest player on the 2011 World Cup team, scoring a goal in the final match against Japan.

She scored her 100th goal with the national team in April — not bad for a late-bloomer who didn't play club soccer until age 14.

Morgan, who also plays with the National Women's Soccer League's Orlando Pride, was named this year to Time Magazine's 100 most influential people list.

Christine Sinclair, Canada: Sinclair is the most prolific scorer ever in Canadian soccer, and with 181 career goals she's edging closer to former U.S. star Abby Wambach, who holds the international record — among men or women — with 184.

Sinclair has been the face of the



ANDY JACOBSON/AP

With 181 goals, 35-year-old Canada forward Christine Sinclair is approaching the international record of 184 career goals.



RICK RYCOFT/AP

Samantha Kerr, 25, has been playing with the Australian national team since she was 15.



STEVE LUCIANO/AP

Germany midfielder Dzsener Marozsan, left, returned to the game after a pulmonary embolism kept her sidelined for several months.



JULIO CORTES/AP

United States forward Alex Morgan, 29, will be playing in her third World Cup. She scored 18 goals in 19 international games in 2018.

Kerr plays soccer year-round with the Chicago Red Stars of the NWSL and with the Perth Glory of Australia's W-League. Last season, she led the NWSL in goals for the second straight year with 16.

Dzsener Marozsan, Germany: Marozsan is the inspirational story of the World Cup, having returned to the game after a pulmonary embolism kept her sidelined for several months last year.

Marozsan grabbed international attention at the 2016 Olympics in Brazil when she scored

the winning goal against Sweden. The 27-year-old has 32 goals in 89 appearances overall with Germany.

At just under 15, she became the youngest player to debut in the Bundesliga. She currently plays for Lyon and has been the French player of the year for the past two seasons.

Lyon has won the French league and the Champions League for the past three seasons. A World Cup championship is the only major title Marozsan is missing.



FRANK AUGSTEN/AP

Brazil's Marta is a six-time FIFA World Player of the Year.

Marta, Brazil: Known by just her first name, Marta Vieira da Silva is a six-time FIFA World Player of the Year.

Marta is playing in her fifth World Cup. She has also played in four Olympics for Brazil, but so far, a championship has eluded her in both tournaments. The 33-year-old has the most World Cup goals with 15, one better than both Wambach and Germany's Birgit Prinz.

Growing up in a small town, Marta played soccer with the boys. But her talent was recognized quickly and she left home to play soccer when she was just 14.

At the 2016 Olympics in her native country, she played with so much passion that fans crossed out Neymar's name on their No. 10 jerseys and wrote in Marta's.

She had a setback last week when she injured her left thigh in practice for the World Cup, but she has since returned to training.

Samantha Kerr, Australia: There are few players, if any, that are as dynamic as Kerr with the ball. She's also known for her signature backflip following goals.

This will be the 25-year-old's third World Cup, and the Australians hope to improve on their surprising run to the quarterfinals in the 2015 tournament.

Since making her debut with the Australian national team at 15, Kerr has collected 31 goals in 77 games. As captain of the team, known as the Matildas, Kerr has been called "fearless" by coach Ante Milicic.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Scoreboard

Women's World Cup

First round						
GROUP A						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0

Saturday, June 8						
At Paris						
France vs. South Korea						
Saturday, June 8						
At Reims, France						
Norway vs. Nigeria						
Wednesday, June 12						
At Nice, France						
France vs. Norway						
Nigeria vs. South Korea						
Monday, June 17						
At Rennes, France						
France vs. Nigeria						
At Reims, France						
South Korea vs. Norway						

GROUP B						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0
China	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0

Saturday, June 8						
At Le Havre, France						
China vs. South Africa						
At Rennes, France						
Germany vs. China						
Wednesday, June 12						
At Valenciennes, France						
Germany vs. Spain						
Thursday, June 13						
At Paris						
South Africa vs. China						
Monday, June 17						
At Montpellier, France						
Germany vs. South Africa						
At Le Havre, France						
China vs. Spain						

GROUP C						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sunday, June 9						
At Valenciennes, France						
Australia vs. Italy						
Thursday, June 13						
At Montpellier, France						
Australia vs. Brazil						
Friday, June 14						
At Reims, France						
Jamaica vs. Italy						
Tuesday, June 18						
At Grenoble, France						
Australia vs. Jamaica						
At Valenciennes, France						
Italy vs. Brazil						

GROUP D						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
England	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sunday, June 9						
At Nice, France						
England vs. Scotland						
Monday, June 10						
At Paris						
Argentina vs. Japan						
Friday, June 14						
At Rennes, France						
Japan vs. Scotland						
England vs. Argentina						
Wednesday, June 19						
At Nice, France						
Japan vs. England						
At Paris						
Scotland vs. Argentina						

GROUP E						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cameroun	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0

Monday, June 10						
At Montpellier, France						
Canada vs. Cameroun						
Tuesday, June 11						
At Le Havre, France						
New Zealand vs. Netherlands						
At Valenciennes, France						
Netherlands vs. Cameroun						
At Grenoble, France						
Canada vs. New Zealand						
At Reims, France						
Netherlands vs. Canada						
At Montpellier, France						
Cameroun vs. New Zealand						

GROUP F						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
United States	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thailand	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0

Tuesday, June 11						
At Reims, France						
Chile vs. Sweden						
At Valenciennes, France						
United States vs. Thailand						
Sunday, June 16						
At Paris						
United States vs. China						
At Reims, France						
Sweden vs. Thailand						
Thursday, June 20						
At Le Havre, France						
Sweden vs. United States						
At Rennes, France						
Thailand vs. China						

Top player protests by sitting out

By STEVE DOUGLAS
Associated Press

With a no-nonsense look etched on her face, Ada Hegerberg stares straight into the camera and says: "Now it's time for action."

It's fitting the Norwegian superstar was chosen as the face of a recently launched campaign aimed at improving the profile and standards in women's soccer.

Not just because, as the first ever female winner of the Ballon d'Or, she is the outstanding player in the women's game. But because she also is fighting her own private battle for equality and greater respect in the sport, a battle that will deprive soccer fans of the chance to see her at the Women's World Cup, which kicks off in France on June 7.

Hegerberg hasn't played for Norway in two years, ever since she decided to rule herself out of selection because of what she perceives to be a general disregard for women's soccer in the country. The crux of her frustration is the uneven pace of progress and strategy in the women's game.

The Norwegian soccer federation has reached an agreement with Norway's players' association for an equal-pay deal between men and women. The deal, struck in December 2017, a few months after Hegerberg stood down from national team duty, was held up as the first of its kind in international soccer.

The federation also now has a female sporting director — former international Lise Klavness — who splits her time equally between the country's men's and women's teams, and runs a project aimed at developing top women's coaches. She is sure Norway invests more money in the women's game than "most other federations."

Still, Hegerberg won't return for the World Cup.

"A lot of things need to be done," she said in an interview with The Associated Press last year, "to make the conditions better for women who play football."

Norway coach Martin Sjogren said meet-



BALAZS CZAGANY, MTI/AP

Norway's Ada Hegerberg, the world's best player, won't be at the Women's World Cup after ruling herself out of contention for her home country two years ago in protest for equality in women's soccer.

ings were held in an effort to change Hegerberg's mind ahead of the tournament. They were in vain.

"As a coach, you need to focus on the players who want to be a part of the team," Sjogren said, "and Ada doesn't."

Hegerberg hasn't gone into any specific detail about why she has rejected this latest chance to return to her national squad, although Klavness spoke of the 23-year-old striker believing "she cannot be at her best in this system."

Klavness doesn't want the dispute with Hegerberg to leave a cloud over the Norwegian team but was eager to stress she has "not given up" on the country's star player.

"We need to try to have a confidential relationship and just talk directly to each other so we can have common ground and maybe have her back after the World Cup," Klavness said in a phone interview with the AP. "That's

where we are now."

And so, the best player in women's soccer won't be gracing the biggest tournament in women's soccer. It's a black eye for FIFA — the organizer of the World Cup — considering Hegerberg won the Ballon d'Or last year and stands alongside Lionel Messi, a five-time winner of the men's award, as the current icons of the sport.

She is putting up Messi-like scoring numbers, too.

Thanks to her hat trick for Lyon in its 4-1 win over Barcelona in the Women's Champions League final, she has 44 goals in 46 appearances in that competition. In domestic games, she has 211 goals in 208 games.

Her goal tally for Norway — 38 in 66 appearances — is also extraordinary, considering she stopped playing for the team at the age of 21.

That's why she'll be so sorely missed in France.

"I think Ada's decision needs to be respected," Nadine Kessler, UEFA women's soccer director, told the AP. "It's a brave decision to consciously miss a World Cup."

That Hegerberg saw fit to front a campaign by UEFA entitled "Time for Action" that was launched a month before the World Cup brought further exposure to the fight for greater equality.

Over the last couple of years, Ireland's team has threatened to go on strike, while Denmark's team canceled a World Cup qualifier against Sweden because of a pay dispute, leading to its players eventually signing a four-year collective bargaining agreement with their federation.

While her absence from the World Cup is a loss for fans, her ongoing fight for change could reap benefits for the game in the long term.

"We are happy for this debate to raise attention and respect for women's soccer in the world," Klavness said. "And I do view it as a big change-maker. But I just wish she was in our team."

Al: US trying to focus on competition, not pending lawsuit

FROM BACK PAGE

Twenty-eight members of the current player pool filed the lawsuit on March 8 in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, alleging "institutionalized gender discrimination" that includes ineligibility for compensation when compared with their counterparts on the men's national team.

Because the lawsuit is still in the early stages, it's likely no significant movement will be made until the team returns home.

Megan Rapinoe was asked whether the pay issue puts more pressure on the team — which will already be facing a strong field looking to topple the three-time World Cup winner.

"I think that the huge media splash of the lawsuit is behind us and we're obviously focused on the World Cup," Rapinoe said. "But also it's like this is our life, and there are a lot of things that we have to grapple and deal with: Family, friends, partners, media, pressures, games, World Cup, travel. So it's just kind of just one more thing. This team always has a lot of media attention, and we've always had a lot of things on our plate so it's not like it's anything

new, or all of a sudden we're getting all the more attention. It's sort of the same for us."

The 24-team tournament will be played at nine stadiums across France over the course of the next month, with the final set for July 7 in Lyon.

The last time

The United States won the last World Cup in 2015. Carli Lloyd scored three goals in the first 16 minutes to help give the Americans a 5-2 victory over Japan for their third overall World Cup title, most for any nation since the tournament was introduced in 1991. England was a surprising third-place finisher in Canada.

VAR

In March, FIFA approved the use of video review for the World Cup in France. The Video Assistant Referee system, or VAR, was used at the men's World Cup in Russia last year.

Prize money

The prize money for the World Cup will be \$30 million, of which \$4 million will go to the federa-



SETH WENIG/AP

USA women's national soccer team members, from left, Carli Lloyd, Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe speak to reporters on May 24.

tion of the champion. While the total is double the prize money for the 2015 Women's World Cup, it is a fraction of the \$400 million in prize money for last year's men's World Cup, of which \$38 million went to champion France. FIFA, soccer's international governing body, says prize money for the 2022 men's World Cup will be \$440 million.

Too many tournaments

FIFA has also been criticized for scheduling the World Cup final on the same day as the Copa America final in Rio and the CONCACAF Gold Cup final in Chicago. U.S. coach Jill Ellis pointedly said: "In my own personal opinion, playing three big matches in one day isn't supporting the women's game. So, there you go."

SPORTS



Song makes history
Pitcher is Navy's highest
MLB Draft pick ever » **Page 27**

U.S. forward Alex Morgan, second from right, celebrates her hat trick with defender Tobin Heath (17) and other teammates on July 26, 2018. The Women's World Cup kicks off Friday with the U.S. as the favorite to defend its title.

COLIN E. BRALEY/AP



All for one

Equality will be at forefront as Women's World Cup begins Friday in France

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

The world's best player won't be at the Women's World Cup but the world's best team will be, with both sides taking a stand for equality.

The U.S. national team, ranked No. 1 globally, will try to defend its title in soc-

cer's premier tournament, which kicks off Friday in Paris. While the Americans make their way around France for the monthlong event, back at home they're all part of a lawsuit that accuses U.S. Soccer of gender discrimination.

Meanwhile, Ada Hegerberg, the first female Ballon d'Or winner for the world's top player, won't be accompanying Norway's national team. She stepped away in

2017 because of what she perceives to be a general disregard for women's soccer by the country's federation. The crux of her frustration is the uneven pace of progress and strategy in the women's game.

Hegerberg, 23, is at the top of her game. She had a hat trick for Lyon in its 4-1 win over Barcelona in the recent Women's Champions League final.

"We are happy for this debate to raise

attention and respect for women's soccer in the world, and I do view it as a big change-maker," said Lise Klaveness, sporting director for the Norwegian Football Federation, "But I just wish she was in our team."

The U.S. team hopes to collectively be a difference-maker, too.

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USA's Morgan among five players to watch » Page 30

